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THE

BURNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

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PART IV.

(November 1824 to June 1827.)

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Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 325.

No. 16.

FORT WILLIAM 19th November 1824.

Deputy Secretary at Prince of Wales's Island.

To G. SWINTON Esqr.
Secy. to Govt. FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

* * * * * *

Mr. Gibson, whilst here, described in very strong terms the riches and advantageous position of the territory and ports in the Southern Provinces of the Burman Empire, but the Right Honble. the Govr. Genl. in Council must already be well apprized of the immense value which the Burmese Court place on these Provinces, and particularly on the ports of Mergui and Tavoy, and this Government is convinced His Lordship in Council will not restore them to Siam without requiring in return the cession to us of a freedom of trade with those places, and indeed a general removal of all those vexations and restraints with which commerce is at present fettered at the capital, as well as at all the other ports of Siám. The Renovation * of the little Kingdom of Kedah, however desirable to the immediate interests of this Settlement, cannot for one moment be considered of such importance to the British Empire at large as the establishment of an unrestricted trade with the whole Siamese Empire, and with the interior and Eastern Coast of Malay Peninsula by means of those overland routes and of those rivers flowing into the sea in the immediate neighbourhood of this Island. This valuable object in addition to the restoration of the King of Kedah, this Government could undoubtedly obtain without difficulty, were it only authorized by His Lordship in Council to open a negotiation for such

* Sic. ? Restoration.

purpose with the Court of Siam and Rajah of Ligore, founded on the contemplated transfer to Siam of Mergui and Tavoy.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. M. Williams,
Depy. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
The 11th June 1824.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations Vol. 337.

Fort William 27th April 1826.

No. 2.

Tenasserim and Mergui.

* * * * * *

Extracts of J. Low's Report.

It is well known that this Province was claimed by the Siamese about the period when the English first visited these seas, and that it was taken possession of by the Burmans in 1760.

* * * * * *

The Siamese have carried off since the breaking out of the present war 1,000 persons at the least computation. The troops employed in this service were a few Bankok and Contingencies from Six Districts on the West Shore of the Gulf of Siam viz Chaiya Phoom ree ung choomphan—Ban taphan Mai and Preep pree. These are laid down in my Geographical Sketch of Siam.

To check any further encroachment a detachment of about 70 men under a subaltern officer might be spared from the Mergui Garrison and thrown into Tenasserim. It would be requisite to relieve it monthly, as being in the midst of a wild jungle country, the place will not likely prove healthy. A compact stockade ought to be built at this place before any troops are sent to it and indeed *no outposts would be safe* without such a defence; as before noticed Tenasserim has been lately entirely demolished.

The whole of the Siamese party is reported to have consisted of 5 to 800 men. 123 men of this force have been taken prisoners. From several of these I learnt that a large body has been ordered by the Siamese Court to proceed to Choomphan and to hold themselves in readiness to march to Mergui should it be found requisite to enforce their restitution. Perhaps these prisoners have raised this report

with the view of alarming the British Authorities at Mergui and of inducing them to order their release.

It is probable that as the Siamese cannot spare men they will be glad to restore and exchange the Merguiers who have been carried off by them for those prisoners. The inhabitants of Tenasserim detest the Siamese and fear them too and it is quite evident that they feel their inferiority as soldiers.

* * * * * *

With respect to the Siamese and any alleged probability of their ever acting against us in concert with the people of this coast, I shall only observe that in the breasts of the latter there exists a deadly feeling of hatred towards the former built on the multiplied and cruel injuries sustained from them in times past, and that any appearances which should lead them to suppose that they were again to fall under Siamese rule might urge them to revolt. They seem so well attached to the British that were these Provinces abandoned I have not a doubt that two thirds of the population would rejoice to be permitted to settle under the Penang Government.

* * * * * *

(Signed) J. LOW. Lieut. Lately employed on the Tenasserim Coast under the orders of the Honble. the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island.

Prince of Wales's Island
1st October 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations. Vol. 377.

No. 3.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

TAVAI.

Extracts of J. Low's Report.

* * * * * *

Tavai was governed by an independent prince until the progress of the Thai or Siamese race southward brought them in contact with the petty states from Martaban to Malacca. Even at this period and until long afterwards it is likely that the Prince of Tavai merely acknowledged the supremacy of Siam without being subject to its direct authority, for we find that the English recognised Tavai as an independent Principality in 1753 and that it was not until 1786 the Burmans gained possession of it. In 1790 its Governor conspired against his Master the King of Ava and delivered the province into the hands of the Siamese. But it was soon retaken by the Burmans. The Siamese carried off during the period of their sway 5000 of the inhabitants, and distributed them over different parts of Siam. Previous to its recent occupation by the British it was molested by Nhameh, a famous Siamese Chief, who surprised and conveyed to Siam numbers of the Tavoyers. He was himself at last surprised by Ma Aumda, a Burman of Tavai, who took him prisoner in the middle of a dark night and dispersed his party. He was shut up in an iron cage and sent to Rangoon where he died in 1823 of Cholera Morbus. Ma aumda received a present of 1000 Ticals of silver and various honorary dresses from the King and was appointed Second in Council at Tavai, which office he held when that place was captured by the British.

* * * * * *

(Signed) J. LOW

P. W. Island.
1st November 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 337.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

No. 8.

Mautama or Martaban.

Extract of J. Low's Report

* * * * * *

The Siamese have given us a very good specimen of their indecision and cunning since the war broke out. While success on the side of the British seemed doubtful no suggestion could induce them to take an active share in the war against Ava, and their conduct while encamped with a considerable army on the eastern branch of the Martaban river was of such a dubious sort that they were properly believed to be *enemies rather than friends.*

Coll. Smith had permitted the Chiefs to send over parties to purchase provisions in the Bazar, and it was found out soon after that an alarming number had on various pretences remained in the town—one man in a fit of intoxication had boasted that Martaban would soon be in the possession of their army.

Captain Williamson who succeeded to Coll. Smith was therefore under the necessity of forthwith ordering every Siamese out of the place. Since that time several Burmans have privately stated that a project was at the period alluded to in agitation by individuals (Burmans and Peguers in their interest) to murder all the European officers and to introduce the Siamese to the town, who were not to appear in the business, but to give out that on learning the event they had hurried to assist their friends the English. No public investigation of this matter has yet taken place, but it will serve to shew the degree of caution with which their proffered friendship should be viewed.

Their army on learning the check which Genl. Cotton had met with at Dennabyoo, which was rapidly all

over the country and may have reached them a week after that event, suddenly broke off their conference with Coll. Smith, without assigning any reason, and retreated towards Siam, at which retrograde movement His Siamese Majesty was much displeased and directed the General to return to the confines of Martaban. A party of about 100 men lay encamped on the right of my route from Wakoo to the town, their advanced parties on seeing my sepoys fled precipitately.

There is one point of their conduct requiring attention. It is clear that amongst other objects they aim at reviving the ancient Mon or Pegu Dynasty. Their motive is equally clear. They are aware that the Prince who through their interposition and aid should be placed upon the throne would from feelings both of gratitude and of interest admit Siamese Officers to Civil and Military Offices and that Siam in fact would virtually govern. It is well known that the Siamese have lately used every means in their power to conciliate the Mons and that although they have prevented many of that nation who have been stolen or kidnapped on former occasions from returning to their country, yet they have treated them with as much or even greater consideration than their own people. In various letters which will no doubt have been laid before the Supreme Government, the Siamese Court affirms that it has permitted all the Peguers who chose it to return home, but it is a fact too apparent to require illustration or proof that the most effective part of the Siamese army is at this moment comprised of *Peguers* and that without mercenaries their army would scarcely deserve the the name of one. It is not however believed that these Peguers are much attached to the Siamese Government and it is supposed that the detention of their families by the latter alone ensures their fidelity.

Upon three several very late occasions I have been credibly informed when a great alarm was created in Bankok by a false report that a fleet of British ships was in the river, when the people were preparing to fly with their effects and the troops were hastily got together. Certain symptoms are said to have shewn themselves indicating that the Pegu part of the army had no disposition to engage in the then expected contest. The King it has also been stated to me talked of submission, while his Courtiers said *if the Country is to be taken from us we ought not to forego it without a struggle.* The efficient part of the Siamese army is said not to exceed 1000 men. Since the alarms above noticed they have been endeavouring to construct chain works to throw across the river, but in which they are more likely to betray their ignorance than to place serious obstacles in the way of vessels navigating it.

I have had no occasion to alter the opinion expressed by me when employed on the Mission to the Ligor Rajah that the Siamese would not be found of any service during the war. They now come forward when the "golden" can barely support the weight of a tottering monarchy and offer "*to exterminate the Burmans*" for this is their expression in reply to a letter addressed to the Siamese Court by Coll. Smith.

Such an offer is in accordance with the ideas of a demisavage people and points out the horrid evils which would ensue were an army of Siamese to have an opportunity of settling an account of several centuries of revenge in the heart of Burma.

It is in vain now to suppose that even were they willing to assist the British any serious diversion could be made in the direction of Martaban. The roads to Ava from that Province are not practicable until the middle of November and to send a Siamese army through Pegu would only enable it to follow in

the (? wake) of the British in the advance on Ava and would certainly be detrimental to our interest in the lower Province, for the Siamese would never be able to proceed without plundering the people who have obtained British protection. The only quarter in which a diversion could now be effected with a Siamese force is that of their eastern or North Eastern frontier of Ava. The Siamese have easy access to the Martaban Province by the route of the Phra-Loong-choo or Three Pagodas and so long as a shadow of probability shall remain of their obtaining possession of Martaban they will keep up a body of troops either on their own or as heretofore within the Martaban frontier.

The Siamese are an aspiring race, yet wanting adequate means to realize highly ambitious projects. An increase of those means seems to be an inevitable consequence of the present war with Ava and lies without any acquisition of territory in the direction of that state. While the Burman sway over its neighbour is suspended, Siam has leisure to strengthen herself and improve her resources, as the military spirit of the Burmans has been already broken by the successes of the British, and their future condition is likely to be much more circumscribed than it ever has been since they became a conquering people. It is reasonable to conclude that Siam will in time (? rise) to the first rank amongst Indo-Chinese States.

She may not then perhaps find it convenient to extend herself West, but the Malacca Peninsula lies before her, an easy prey if we exclude the British possessions. These last may not be endangered, but they will certainly be exposed to annoyance from and probably to misunderstandings with the Court of Bangkok with reference to relations or existing treaties with Malayan Rajas. Siam will likely also turn her attention to Camboja and Laos, which cannot be supposed capable of resisting her long.

In a military point of view I should say that the Burmese mode of fighting is nearly the same as theirs, which if I may be allowed to use the expression is defensive while it is most actively offensive.

* * * * * *

(Signed) James Low
Lt. 46th Regt. M. N. I.

Martaban
15th August 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 139, p. 24.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 26 October 1826.

Envoy to Perak dated Allahan 13 October 1826.

To JOHN ANDERSON Esquire
Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, that the provisions which were brought with the Mission having been expended, and as its return may still be delayed for a short period, I have deemed it requisite to dispatch with all expedition the schooner Zephyr for an additional supply of rations.

I beg further to report that I only await the arrival of the Rajah Muda and his party from the interior to bring the negociations with the King to a termination which I have every reason to believe will prove quite favorable. I request to be supplied with another supply of 100 Rupees worth of presents.

I have &c.

(Signed) James Low Lt.
Political Agent.

Allahan
13th October 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 342.

FORT WILLIAM 22 Decr. 1826.

No. 9.

Brig Guardian off Fort William
2d Decr. 1826

To G. Swinton Esqre.
Secy. to Govt. in the Secret
and Political Department.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to report my arrival having left Prince of Wales Island on the 17th of October, and touched at Queda, Mergui and Tavoy on my passage to Bengal. Herewith I beg to deliver to you the Treaty negotiated by me with the Ministers of of Siam, the Communication addressed by the King of Siam to the Right Honble. the Governor General and the letters addressed to his Lordship and to yourself by Chao Phya Phra Khlang, the Minister for trade and foreign affairs at Bangkok.

See appendices Nos. 37, 41, 42, 43 (Burney Papers. Vol. III).

The whole of the presents returned by the King and Court of Siam were ordered to be landed at Prince of Wales Island by the Government there.

I beg leave also to tender for the examination of the Supreme Government the accompanying report exhibiting in three parts full and digested accounts of the transactions and negotiations in which I have been engaged, and of the information which I have been able to collect on all points connected with the late Mission to Siam.

See infra for these.

No. 1. gives a general view of the objects of the Mission with an account of the proceedings as far as the primary objects of the Mission were concerned.

No. 2. details my proceedings with respect to the Commercial objects of the Mission, and the information collected and opinions formed by me respecting the trade, resources and Government of Siam.

No. 3 details my proceedings and sentiments with reference to the King of Queda and the Malay States on the Peninsula of Malacca. I regret extremely that this last paper should be so voluminous but the dissatisfaction which the Government of Prince of Wales Island has expressed at the result of the Mission on this point, imposed upon me the necessity of submitting a full examination of the opinions adopted by the officers of Government, regarding the dependent nature of the connexion which has always subsisted between the Chiefs of the Malay Principalities, and particularly the Ex-King of Queda, and the Kings of Siam, and regarding the right and policy of the British Government interfering on a large scale with the pretensions of Siam over a portion of the Peninsula of Malacca.

I have &ca.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain
late Envoy to the Court
of Siam.

No. 1.

No. 16.

Mr. Crawfurd's reception at the Court of Siam in 1822 held out, it must be confessed, little encouragement to the British Government to depute another Mission to so jealous and impracticable a race, yet immediately upon the rupture with Ava, that Gentleman himself officially reported his opinion, that the moment had at length arrived when it was within our reach to arrange all our differences with the Siamese, and to place our commercial intercourse both with that nation and with Ava upon a liberal footing, calculated to British industry.

In order to furnish the Court of Siam with correct information respecting our intended operations against Ava, and to discover its aims and feelings on the occasion, the Government of Prince of Wales Island was induced in April 1824 to depute Lieut. James Low of the Madras 46th Native Infantry on a Mission to the Rajah or Siamese Governor of Ligor*, but that Chief declined either to allow the Envoy to cross the country to Ligor, or to give him a meeting. His Highness's mind, Lieut. Low reported, had been filled with distrust and apprehension towards the Government of Prince of Wales Island by certain native inhabitants living under its protection; and during that officers absence, the King of Queda reported at Penang that he had read certain information of a design on the part of the Siamese Chief to poison the Envoy.

Low's mission to be copied later.

In the month of September of the same year Lieut. Colonel Snow of the Madras Establishment arrived at Prince of Wales Island from Rangoon, instructed by Sir Archibald Campbell and the late Major Canning to concert with the Government of that Island some plan for obtaining the co-operation of a Siamese army, and the invasion of the Burmese territory in the direction of the Coast of Tenasserim, and for procuring from the Siamese draft and carriage cattle to the largest extent

they could supply. It was proposed that the Siamese troops, if acting jointly with a British force, should be subject to the general disposal of the Officer Commanding the latter, and that when Tavoy, Mergui and Martaban fell into our possession, those places should be held by Siamese troops, under an understanding of their consenting to evacuate them, if required so to do at the conclusion of peace, when possibly some equivalent might be devised that would prove satisfactory to the Court of Siam.

The Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island furnished Lieut. Col. Snow with letters to the Phra Khlang or Foreign Minister at Bangkok, and to some of the Siamese Governors in the neighbourhood of Mergui, and gave that officer the powers necessary for the opening of any negotiation with the Siamese authorities, rather in the hope of some opportunity being afforded for developing the sentiments of those chiefs than of procuring military aid, beyond the facility of providing carriage cattle and supplies for the use of the army at Rangoon.

Lieut. Colonel Snow reached the Coast of Tenasserim after the whole of it had fallen into our possession, and meeting with no opportunity for opening a negotiation with the Siamese through either Tavoy or Mergui, he returned to the army. Lieut. Low, who had accompanied him as Assistant was afterwards remanded from Rangoon to Tavoy, when he took advantage of his situation to visit the interior of that province and of Martaban for the purpose of supplying Government with some account of the new conquests.

In January 1825 the British Government still continued ignorant of the views and feelings of the Siamese Court with respect to the Burmese war, but at that period the death of the old King of Siam, and the accession to the throne of an illegitimate son being considered as events likely to effect important changes

in the policy of that kingdom, the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island upon a previous recommendation from the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council was pleased to appoint Captain Henry Burney of the 25th Bengal Native Infantry Political Agent to the Siamese States in the neighbourhood of that Island, with instructions to collect such authentic information and undertake such personal communications with the Raja of Ligor and other Siamese Chiefs, as might pave the way for a correct determination of those points in which the British interests were involved.

Burney's mission to Queda in 1822 to be copied later.

Previous to this appointment Captain Burney had some personal acquaintance with the Raja of Ligor and his son, the Governor of Queda. In March 1822 when the Penang Government had been induced to suspend the relief of the troops, which was then in progress, in consequence of the inhabitants of that Island having taken alarm at the force that his Highness had collected at Queda, and at the tales that Malay refugees and the partizans of the King of Queda had brought to them, Captain Burney volunteered to visit the Siamese Chief, and ascertain the nature of his designs and force, which were then found to be greatly misrepresented and to be most harmless as far as the British Government was concerned. In the month of May following Captain Burney was invited by His Highness to revisit him, when he was instructed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island to endeavour to effect the release of the family and personal servants of the King of Queda, whom the Siamese Chief had seized upon his first irruption into Queda. The Raja of Ligor however was well aware of the advantage which the detention of those captives gave him, and he shrewdly referred to the circumstance of the British Government having detained the family of Tippoo Sultan. Captain Burney reported at that time to the Government of Prince of Wales Island

his conviction that the Siamese Chief had determined to annex Queda permanently to his own territories.

But that Officer now pursuant to his instructions as Political Agent to the Siamese States visited in the Months of January, February and March 1825, Queda and the whole coast of the Siamese territories from Prince of Wales Island to Pungah in Lat. 8°. 21′ Long. 98°. 31. He found that the most wild and mischievous tales against the Government of Prince of Wales Island had been taken to the Rajah of Ligor and his Officers, who were at that moment firmly persuaded that a force was ready at P. W. I. to be pushed across the Country to Ligor, the moment we obtained correct routes. As that Chief and his followers viewed us with the utmost jealousy and suspicion, and refused to receive our envoys or to accept our proferred kindness, Captain Burney could only obtain the consent of His Highness's son at Quedah to send a Chinese Agent to Ligor in order to urge his father the Rajah to give the Political Agent a personal interview on the western coast of the Malayan Peninsula. He, in the mean time, visited almost every river in the territory of Queda, and saw that the Raja of Ligor had made arrangements for availing himself of the whole resources of that kingdom, amounting, it was said, to nearly 30,000 Dollars per annum, and that His Highness was therefore deeply interested against its restoration to the former Malay Chief. The son at Quedah was appropriating for his father the principal staples of paddy, timber and tin to the southward of Seettool, while two other sons, who were stationed at Merakit were appropriating the staples to the northward, namely Birds' nests, Tripang and timber for Boat building. Captain Burney ascertained also that the Siamese Chief was equipping a large fleet of boats for the purpose of proceeding to the Southward of Prince of Wales Island to occupy the state of Perak, which had been brought under the dominion of Siam in 1818

by the Raja of Queda, and to attack the State of Salangore, the Raja of which had in 1823 driven out a party of Siamese from Perak, and had established his nephew. Tuanko or Raja Hussein at the Mouth of the Perak River to control the trade and government of that Country.

Captain Burney farther observed that the Siamese at Queda did not entirely credit the fact of our being at war with Ava, suspecting that our object in spreading such a report was in view only that our officers might be allowed to cross the country towards Ligor and Bangkok.

At Pungah Captain Burney met with the most liberal and friendly reception from the Siamese Chief, who is also Governor of Junkceylon, Tukoa-pa and Tukoa-thong, the deputy Governors of which last places, as well as a Commissioner from Bangkok, were then assembled there. He was told by the Governor of Junkceylon that he had lately received orders from Siam directing him, as he was near Mergui and the British possessions, to collect and transmit full and accurate accounts of our proceedings, respecting which the Court of Siam had heard accounts upon which it said, it could not entirely depend, and Captain Burney was led to believe, that Siam would rejoice to recover her ancient dominions on the coast of Tenasserim, but that any such transfer would ensure to the whole of the Burmese inhabitants there the most inhuman treatment. He was further solicited to pledge an immediate restoration by the British Government of the Siamese prisoners who had been carried away by the Burmese from Junkceylon and other places, and he was earnestly invited to accompany the Governor of Junkceylon to Bangkok, whither that Chief was about to proceed in the course of a month or 3 weeks for the purpose of assisting at the funeral of the late King of Siam.

Possessing no powers at that time to visit Siam, Captain Burney contented himself with furnishing the

Governor of Junkceylon with a note for the Court of Bangkok, detailing the proceedings of the British Government against Ava, and with short letters addressed to the British Commanders at Mergui, Tenasserim, Tavoy, Ye and Martaban to be forwarded through the Governors of the contiguous Siamese towns, in view to open and establish a friendly intercourse between our Garrisons and the Siamese posts.

Captain Burney here learnt that the Siamese Chiefs in the Isthmus of Kraw are servants of the State of Siam, implicitly bound by and actually obeying the dictates of their superiors at Bangkok, and that we should be able to make no impression in our negotiations at Bangkok, respecting Queda, but through the intervention of the Siamese Governors in the neighbourhood of Prince of Wales Island. The Governor of Junkceylon declared, that the Raja of Ligor possessed great influence at Bangkok through his nephew the present Wangna, to whom he transmitted almost the whole of the proceedings arising from his occupation of Queda, and that in view to effect a restoration of the King of Queda it would be necessary to offer either some suitable compensation to the Wangna and Raja of Ligor, or some equivalent to the Court of Siam, calculated to make the general advantages to be derived by it in other quarters outweigh the more immediate views of those two Chiefs.

Junkceylon, in the time of Captain Forrest in 1780, had a population of upwards of 12,000 souls, and yielded a produce of 500 Tons of Tin, but since Novr. 1809 when the Burmese made a sudden descent upon it and laid it waste, that Island and all the neighbouring continent has been kept in a state of constant alarm from the Burmese, so as to have entirely prevented the settling of inhabitants there: altho' the Siamese drove the Burmese out of the Island within a few weeks yet they derived scarcely any advantage

from its reoccupation. The seat of the Government was removed to Pungah on the main land to which all the women and children of the greater portion of the 800 or 1000 men only who now inhabit Junkceylon retire during the N. E. monsoon. The successes of the British arms on the Coast of Tenasserim and the interposition of a British force at Mergui promise to afford to the Chief and inhabitants of Pungah a degree of security which they have never before enjoyed, and the very first consequence of our Burmese War was to induce the Siamese to turn their views towards improving Junkceylon. The Commercial Regulations at Pungah and Junkceylon may be considered liberal.

The Siamese are fully aware of the value of Junkceylon and the Governor prides himself on the title of Governor of that Island in preference to that of Governor of Pungah. His authority extends only as far as about Lat: 9°. 30′ and the Governor of Ch'hoomp'hon, a settlement on the east coast, holds special charge of the Siamese frontier in this direction. The River Pak-chan, or as the Burmese call it Chanma in about Lat: 10°. 50′ formed the southern boundary of the Burmese. Captain Burney was informed that there would be no difficulty in opening a navigable communication across the Isthmus of Kraw between the Pak-chan and the Ch'hoomp'hon river which flows into the Gulf of Siam in nearly the same parallel of latitude.

This information was subsequently confirmed by Mr. Leal who was employed as one of Captain Burney's interpreters at Bangkok, and who visited Pakchan and Ch'hoomp'hon in March last.

The Governor of Junkceylon, in reply to the letter delivered to him from the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island requested that Captain Burney might be sent back and offered to leave his son at Pungah to convey that officer to him at Bangkok.

On Captain Burney's return to Penang at the latter end of March 1824, he found his Chinese Agent to Ligore had returned some days before with a letter from the Siamese Chief, engaging to give Captain Burney a meeting at Quedah in the course of 30 or 40 days. The severe indisposition of his daughter, who died soon after, was stated to be the cause of this delay. During Captain Burney's absence a report was circulated by the friends of the King of Quedah, that the Rajah of Ligore had resolved upon seizing the person of that officer.

The Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island now deemed it advisable that Captain Burney should proceed to Calcutta and lay before the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council the information which he had collected during his mission, delivering at the same time the following opinion, that an Embassy to Siam for the purpose of negotiating the final adjustment of the various points in discussion with the Kingdom of Siam was indispensable, and that the cession of a portion of the Coast of Tenasserim to the Siamese might be tendered as the equivalent for the main object, namely the restoration of the King of Queda, desired in the direction of Prince of Wales Island.

Captain Burney arrived at Calcutta in May 1825 and submitted to the consideration of the Right Honble. the Governor General a plan for placing our conquests of Mergui and Tavoy under the superintendence and direction of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island and for deputing an Envoy to the Court of Siam to negotiate, upon certain defined terms, the different objects desired by the British Government. The Right Honble. the Governor General in Council was pleased to approve of a part of Captain Burney's plan. The Coast of Tenasserim was placed under the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, in order that full and accurate information might be obtained regarding its real value, extent,

resources and population, and the claims which the inhabitants might have established to our protection, as well as what portion of the territory in question should be annexed permanently to the British possessions, and what expediently relinquished. It has been submitted to the Supreme Government that the unexpected manner in which the war had brought us into the immediate vicinity of the Siamese Dominions was calculated with so jealous and ignorant a race as the Siamese to lead to some collision or embarrassment, if steps were not taken for informing them more fully than they had hitherto been of our ulterior views. The British Government at Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui were weak, while a Siamese force, it was believed, of considerable strength, was near each of those towns. To congratulate the new King of Siam upon his accession to the throne was judged by the Supreme Government to furnish a good ostensible object for deputing an Envoy to Siam and satisfying that Court of our friendly intentions. On this subject therefore His Highness in Council declared, that he had no objection to try the experiment of a Mission to the King of Siam, but that the character of the Mission must be in the first instance entirely complimentary and conciliatory, and that the Governor in Council was not prepared to hold out to the Siamese any distinct expectation of our ceding to them the Province of Tavoy or Mergui. Captain Burney was furnished with credentials as an Envoy on the part of the Right Honble. the Governor General to the Court of Siam, to be made use of at the discretion of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, and he was instructed, if eventually deputed to appear at Bangkok, to offer the Compliments of the Right Honble. the Governor General on the accession of the new King, to assure His Majesty of our friendly disposition and desire to cultivate a good understanding with the State of Siam, to afford the fullest information on every point connected with

the Burmah war, and to propose in exchange for certain Siamese detained at Mergui as well as for the Siamese prisoners demanded by the Governor of Junkceylon, a release of all inhabitants who had been carried away by the Siamese Officers from the Tenasserim Coast since it fell into our possession. Captain Burney was empowered at the same time, should circumstances prove favorable, to combine with the above objects an endeavour to effect the desired improvement in our Commercial relations with Siam, as also the restoration of the King of Queda to his territories on the terms and footing recommended by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, viz. the British Government to guarantee an annual payment of 4,000 Spanish Dollars, and triennial presentation of the customary Gold and Silver Flowers to the King of Siam from His Highness of Queda, in lieu of all other claims or right of future interference with respect to him on the part of Siam or her subordinate Governors. But the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council gave the Envoy no authority to tender to the Siamese any such cession of Territory as was known and suggested to be the equivalent most likely to persuade the Court of Siam to reestablish the Malayan Government in Queda.

Before noticing that part of Captain Burney's instructions which referred to the Burmese war, it may be necessary to state that in the month of February 1825, a Siamese Detachment had arrived near Martaban and deputed some Agents to the Head Quarters of Sir A. Campbell, who instructed Coll. Henry Smith of the Madras Establishment to accompany them back to Martaban, where that officer had a conference with another deputation headed by the son of the Chief of the Siamese Detachment and a Sirdar of consequence, who stated that the Siamese Detachment was the army of Dooara-wuddee, consisting of a body of 500 Abassee and Talien warriors, com-

manded by a Peguan Chief styled Ron Rov, that the Talien Chiefs with their followers were ready and willing to aid us in any measures that might lead to the overthrow of their inveterate enemies the Burmese, that they were in fact at our entire disposal and only wanted our orders to advance with their forces and act as we might think proper to direct. But a few days after, on the 12th of March, before any plan could be arranged for the operation of this army of Dooara-Wuddee, it suddenly broke up its camp and retired upon Siam. The Chief reported his reason for retiring was, that one of the King of Siam's ministers had arrived with a dispatch stating that the season of the rains was approaching when it would be no longer practicable for the troops to return either by land or water, and that it was moreover desirable that the lands should be cultivated at their proper season. Coll. Smith found the inhabitants of Martaban in secret communication with the Chief of the Siamese Detachment whom they desired to set up as the head of the Talien people, and he had reason to suspect that Chief was meditating schemes of personal aggrandizement.

On the 3d March 1825 Major Balmain of the Madras Establishment Commanding the Province of Tavoy, received a report purporting to be from a Siamese General commanding a detachment of 5000 men at Paunzeik. It was in reply to a representation from Major Balmain against the conduct of the Siamese who had carried away some of the inhabitants of the Province, and it stated, with professions of friendship, that the captives had been treated with kindness at Bangkok, having had all their wants supplied, and being left at liberty to return to their own country.

But in the direction of Mergui the conduct of the Siamese appeared decidedly hostile. They plundered the town of Tenasserim and several villages on the 3d of February: and carried off a considerable number of Inhabitants. The whole district of Mergui was kept

in a constant state of alarm in consequence of these depredations until the 31st March, when a detachment of sepoys under Lieut. Driver of the 7th Madras Regiment, whom Major Frith of His Majesty's 38th Regt., the officer commanding at Mergui, had embarked in some Country Boats, proceeded and attacked a Siamese flotilla in that neighbourhood. It proved to be under Rajah of Sampon (Siamese Governor of Ch'homp'hon) who was well aware of Mergui being in our possession, having visited it in the preceding month, but who now declared that he was obeying the orders of his King. The Chief escaped but six of his armed boats and 124 Siamese were taken and detained at Mergui by Major Frith, who transmitted a notification of the affair to the Court of Siam. During his visit to Mergui this Chief had taken some unaccountable alarm and made a sudden departure, proceeding however with his boats straight to Tenasserim, where the British colours were flying. He pulled them down with insult, and sacked the town. Some idea of the real objects of the above Siamese Detachments may be gathered from a perusal of the following passage in a letter which Chao Phya Phra Khlang, the foreign minister at Bangkok, addressed to Mr. Crawfurd late Resident at Singapore, on the 18th February 1825. "One of your letters states that if we would help your nation against the Burmans you would be obliged to us. This has been done and I have written to you before on the subject. Formerly we used to send Chao Phya Maha Yotha the Peguan General with troops to the Northern Provinces to be on the look out and to seize all the Burmans that might fall into his hands. But as we now know that the English are at war with them, we have sent him with a large force to protect our northern frontier. His Majesty has further commanded to be levied more troops and to send them towards the upper Provinces. When Chao Phya Maha Yotha reached Martaban he found that the place had been conquered by the English, so he remains there.

I have sent a person to Chao Phya Maha Yotha with a letter to the British Commander at Rangoon, but have not received an answer. The people of Tavoy and Pegu that were here, have all gone back to those places, as they heard that they were under the English. Our scouts are all on the alert, and they are trying to get every information in order to distract the Burmans. All those that wish to go back the King permits to do so, and provides them with money &ca. as well as with an escort that they may reach their country in safety."

Altho' in forwarding the above letter to the Supreme Government Mr. Crawfurd stated, that under all the circumstances of our present situation in relation to the Court of Siam, he was disposed entirely to rely on the assurances now given of co-operation and assistance, still in Captain Burney's instructions as Envoy to the Court of Siam, he was distinctly informed that the Supreme Government had long ceased to consider Siamese co-operation in the Burmese War in any way important or desirable. He was directed not to include an application for such aid in his negotiations, further than a supply of Draft and Carriage Cattle if practicable and required, and to explain only that it was open to the Siamese to attack any part of the Burmese Dominions from their North Western frontier, provided it were not occupied by our troops, nor under British protection.

Captain Burney left Calcutta in June 1825, and on his return to Prince of Wales Island, he found that the preparations of the Raja of Ligor at Queda, for occupying Perak and subjugating Salangore, were on so large a scale as again to alarm the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island for the safety of that Settlement, and to induce the Honble. the Governor to adopt some precautionary measures, the decisive character of which had caused the Raja to

pause in his proceedings. Several Malays assured the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island that the Raja of Ligore's preparations were directed against that Island, and some of them went so far as to communicate the whole of the Raja of Ligore's intentions and plans of attack with a surprising minuteness of detail. Captain Burney obtained leave to pay His Highness a visit, at which that officer persuaded him on the 31st July to conclude a provisional treaty, by which His Highness engaged to dismiss his armaments, to leave his quarrel with Salengore to the mediation of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, and to accompany Captain Burney to Bangkok, if that officer would touch at Ligor on his passage, and to join with him in submitting to the King of Siam a proposition for the restoration of the King of Queda on the terms and footing suggested by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, The Raja of Ligor further engaged, that no Siamese armament should proceed by land or water to Perak or settle there.

The Government of Prince of Wales Island had of late particularly pressed on the attention of the Supreme Government the expediency of counteracting the exertions which the Siamese were making to extend their conquests to the Southward of Prince of Wales Island over the States of Perak and Salengore, and on that point the Governor General in Council had observed, when authorizing the deputation of an Envoy to Siam, that sensibly as His Lordship in Council must feel the positive evil and inconvenience of having our settlement at Malacca, and eventually Singapore, brought into contact with the Siamese power, and deprived of a large part of their accustomed resources and supplies of provisions by the successive subjugation and depopulation of all the petty states in the southern parts of the Peninsula, still the degree of counteraction, if any, to be opposed by the British Government was a question replete

with difficulty and embarrassment, in the absence of all communication of the sentiments of the Home Authorities regarding the extension of the Siamese Supremacy, or other absolute government over the whole of the Malayan Peninsula. His Lordship in Council at the same time deprecated any direct threat or prohibition to be made to the Siamese by which the British Government might be committed to ulterior procedures.

The Government of Prince of Wales Island therefore believed itself empowered only to refuse the Raja of Ligor's Expedition passage to the Southward through the Harbour of Prince of Wales Island, the route which the Siamese considered most convenient, and which their fleet in 1822 was allowed to take. Captain Burney's agreement with His Highness was directed to giving that Government a right to prevent the Siamese from moving their flotilla to the Southward, *outside* of Penang or from passing a force to Perak overland. This was the great point gained by that treaty, to prevent the extension of Siamese dominion to the vicinity of Malacca, and at least postpone the occupation of Perak and Salengore by the Siamese, until it should be decided what degree of counteraction ought to be opposed by the British Government to the spirit of aggrandizement manifested by the Court of Siam.

Mr. Anderson of the Prince of Wales Island Civil Service was deputed to Salengore and Perak, and he succeeded without any difficulty in persuading the Chief of the former state to engage not to interfere in future with the latter, and to withdraw Tuankoo Hussein from his post at the Mouth of the Perak River.

The Hon. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island having deputed Messrs. Maingy and Blundell to take charge of the Coast of Tenasserim, now determined

upon authorizing Captain Burney to accept the offer of the Rajah of Ligor, and to proceed to Ligor and accompany His Highness to Bangkok. The Hon. the Governor in thus resolving upon forwarding the Mission to Siam, a point which had been left solely to his discretion, was guided mainly by a consideration of the circumstances connected with the Burmese war, the expectation of another campaign against Ava, and the necessity of possessing an early medium of direct communication with the Court of Siam through a British accredited Agent.

It is proper here to state that in addition to the restoration of the King of Queda, the Government of Prince of Wales Island had recommended to the Supreme Government the attainment of four objects in our negotiations with Siam. They were these:—

1st. The disavowal by the Siamese Government of all claims of superiority over any of the Malayan States on the Peninsula South of the State of Patani.

2d. The free navigation of the Rivers between the Trang and the Creean, from their mouths to their sources, as well as the free and unimpeded intercourse overland with Patani and the Tin Countries in the interior, and with Ligor, Singora, and the other parts on the Eastern Coast of the Malayan Peninsula, on fair and moderate duties on the transit or exportation of merchandize by either sea.

3d. The free importation from all the Siamese ports on the Western side of the Peninsula, of all articles of provisions required for the use of Prince of Wales Island.

4th. The cession of the Island of Salang or Junkceylon to the British Government.

But the Governor General in Council had observed in 1824, that although he fully coincided in the view

taken by the Government of Prince of Wales Island of the advantages which would result from the Siamese being prevailed on to relinquish all claims of supremacy over the Malayan States on the Peninsula South of Patani, yet he entertained the strongest doubts of the practicability of inducing the arrogant and haughty Court of Siam to wave pretensions so intimately affecting its pride and consequence, and he questioned therefore the expediency of agitating the proposition at all.

The Governor General in Council had also expressed himself at that time decidedly adverse to any proposition for the cession to us of Junkceylon, and the Government of Prince of Wales Island had subsequently considered that the objects for which it had recommended the occupation of Junkceylon would be fully attained by the retention of Mergui and its islands as British possessions.

The Governor in Council however authorized the Government of Prince of Wales Island to deliver the Envoy such special and additional instructions as it might consider proper or necessary, with reference to the actual state of affairs on his arrival at Prince of Wales Island and that Government therefore apprized the Envoy, that it was not aware of any necessity of adding to the instructions with which he had already been furnished, but that as far as the British interests in that quarter were concerned they might be reduced into the four following heads.

1st. The restoration of the King of Queda.

2ndly. The withdrawal of the Siamese from Perak.

3dly. The prevention of further conquests by the Siamese over the Malayan States on either side of the Peninsula. The consequent maintenance of the independence of those States, and exclusion of the

Siamese power from contact with the British Settlements in the Straits, and

4thly. The Establishment of a more free intercourse and trade with the interior and eastern side of the Malayan Peninsula by means of the overland routes and numerous rivers flowing into the sea in the neighbourhood of Penang.

But the primary and most important object of the Mission to Siam, as viewed by the Governor General in Council, was the maintenance of harmony between two states which had suddenly come into contact, whose troops were in contiguity, and whose subjects of difference and dispute were so likely to arise and become matter of hostile contention. The other objects, which the Mission was empowered to endeavour to attain at Bangkok, in the event only of circumstances proving favorable, were an improvement in our commercial relations with Siam and the restoration of the King of Queda, and respecting these objects even, the Supreme Government observed, "we have so little at present to offer in the way of equivalent, that we consider it vain to hope that any advantages beyond those above specified can be gained by negotiation. Indeed, we do not very clearly perceive how the Government of Siam and the Rajah of Ligor, will ever be persuaded to forego the profit which it seems they derive from the direct occupation of Quedah, unless we are prepared to tender Tavoy or Mergui as an inducement." But the Hon. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island had proposed the cession of a portion of the Coast of Tenasserim to the Siamese, as the equivalent for the main object desired in the direction of Prince of Wales Island, and during Captain Burney's Mission to Pungah, he had ascertained that the only means of restoring the King of Quedah would be to make the general advantages to be derived by the Court of Siam in other quarters, outweigh the more

immediate views of the Wangna and Raja of Ligor, unless we could offer to these Chiefs themselves some more equivalent compensation than the 4000 Dollars per annum proposed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island. When therefore the Supreme Government determined against holding out to the Siamese any distinct expectation of our ceding to them the Province of Tavoy or Mergui, it virtually gave up the Rajah of Quedah.

To accomplish the objects of his Mission, Captain Burney, as may be seen throughout his instructions, could use no other instruments than those of conciliation and address. He was called upon to prove to a jealous, vain and ignorant race, that the realization of those objects would be a mutual benefit to the British and Siamese nations, and he was particularly bound by the whole character of his Mission not to use in his negotiations any means which had the smallest chance of placing our relations with Siam upon a worse footing than that on which they were before his deputation.

Captain Burney experienced the utmost difficulty in persuading the Raja of Ligor to insert in the treaty which was concluded with him, any stipulation in favor of the King of Quedah, against whom His Highness spoke with great asperity. He accepted however the Rajah of Ligor's offer to accompany him to Bangkok, in preference to that of the Governor of Pungah, conceiving that the former had much more influence at Court, and that as his own interests and those of his nephew the Wangna, were so much concerned with the occupation of Quedah, some advantage might be gained by rendering them the channel of the negotiation for restoring the King of Quedah. Unprovided with any equivalent to offer to the Court of Siam to outweigh the more immediate view of those Chiefs, whose party in 1822 constituted the principal opposition to Mr. Crawfurd's negotiation, Captain Burney

saw, that it would be necessary for him to conciliate these individuals at Bangkok, in view that if he failed in removing Quedah from their grasp he might at least secure their cordial cooperation towards effecting the other objects of the Mission.

The Brig Guardian, Captain George Sutherland, was taken up to convey the Mission, to which were attached a medical officer of the Prince of Wales Island Establishment, Mr. Sub Assistant Surgeon Harris and an escort of 30 Sepoys under the Command of Captain Hugh Macfarquhar, who was subsequently appointed by the Supreme Government Assistant to the Envoy. The Mission sailed from Prince of Wales Island on the 25th September 1825 and after touching at Malacca and Singapore, arrived at Tringano on the 17th October. Here the King of Siam's ship bound to Singapore was waiting in consequence of a report which some Malay Boats had brought to this Coast, and which had been sent up to Siam by an Express Boat, stating that there were five frigates and an expedition fitting out at Singapore for the purpose of proceeding against Bangkok. The Mission having relieved the fears of the Commander of the King of Siam's ship, and informed itself of the present state of Tringano and of its relations with Siam and Calantan, proceeded towards Ligor, where it arrived on the 28th October and learnt that the Rajah had quitted Quedah the moment he heard of Captain Burney's departure from Prince of Wales Island, and that he had been for several days ready with his boats to proceed to Siam. The illness of His Highness's youngest and favorite son however detained the Mission for 10 days, at the expiration of which Captain Burney insisted upon proceeding notwithstanding the most urgent entreaties of the Chief to wait until he could accompany the Mission. The North-East Monsoon now appeared to have set in, and it was too late in the season for the Siamese Boats to proceed to Bangkok, while the Mission Brig,

which His Highness personally inspected, was found inadequate to accommodate himself and his family. It was at length agreed, that Captain Burney should leave with the Rajah Mr. Sub Assistant Surgeon Harris and Mr. Leal (one of his interpreters a native of the Azores) to accompany His Highness overland to Bangkok, and that the latter should furnish Captain Burney with letters to the King, Wangna and other officers in Siam and send on board the Brig one of his sons and a Commissioner from Bangkok with their followers.

Means had been taken as usual by some of the mischievous native inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island to fill the Rajah of Ligor's mind with distrust against the British Government and that Chief candidly declared he had been assured Captain Burney had visited the whole of the Quedah territory in the beginning of the year, and had so readily engaged to meet him now at Ligor for the express purpose of collecting information respecting the state and condition of his dominions, to enable the British Government to possess itself of them.

The Mission found Ligor with few inhabitants, no trade and insignificant resources. It appears never to have recovered from the visit of Alompra who laid it waste on his route to Siam. The Burmese Army had again occupied it so lately as the year 1786. The ruins only of Buddhist temples and pyramids attest its having been once an independent kingdom, or of sufficient importance for the seat of a Dutch Factory. But the appearance of Ligor convinced the Mission, that the territory of Quedah is a much more valuable and desirable possession to the Raja of Ligor than what had been generally supposed, and that His Highness would require some greater inducement to relinquish his conquest than that offered by the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

* From this point onwards this document contains various extracts from reports and letters already copied. It was, however, impossible to omit the duplicate portions without interfering with the sequence of the document.

* The Mission left Ligor on the 8th November, arrived off the Bar of Siam on the 20th, and anchored off Paknam, a village at the mouth of the Menam on the 28th. We soon found that all our exertions would be necessary to conciliate the Court of Siam, which had received the intelligence from Tringano of an expedition equipping at Singapore to attack Bangkok. That intelligence had excited a strong sensation at the Capital, had caused the Fort of Paknam and Paklaat to be hastily repaired and strengthened, and had now led the Court to transmit very peremptory orders to the Chief of Paknam to insist upon the delivery and deposit of the Guns of the Mission Brig at Paknam, and to receive no excuse. It has been an established custom of the country, since the French were driven out of Bangkok, for all foreign vessels to deposit their guns at Paknam before they proceed to the Capital, but this regulation was not enforced in the case of the Portuguese Consul, nor against Mr. Crawfurd, who was detained at Paknam for only 24 hours. We were detained seven days during which messages daily passed between the Ministers and us, and interpreters and other Siamese officers were sent to discover our real objects, and the personal character of the different members of the Mission. Anxious as we were to conciliate the Court, we considered that we should not be justified in doing that which the Portuguese and the preceding British Mission had refused to do, and we feared that a compliance on our part would lead the Siamese Ministers to suppose that the British Government was courting an alliance with Siam, and disposed to make sacrifices and concessions to her in consequence of the Burmese War. The son, followers and letters of the Raja of Ligor were sent up to the capital, and their influence joined to a decided communication on our part, that if within 24 hours the Court did not supply us with Boats, or permit the

Brig to pass up to the capital with her Guns we should withdraw from the Country, induced the Ministers at length to submit the matter to the King, who immediately ordered the Brig to be passed, and the Mission to be received with all honor and distinction. On the 4th of December the Mission Brig was met at Paklaat by a deputation with a fleet of war boats with colours, streamers and bands of music, for the purpose of conveying the Governor General's letter and the Envoy to the capital where we arrived late on the evening of the same day.

Our first discussions with the Phra Khlang and other Siamese officers respected the ceremonial to be observed at our presentation to the King. Exertions were made by them for 2 or 3 days, to persuade us to take off our shoes, and to perform the same prostrations as the Siamese. But we succeeded at last in over-ruling such degrading ceremonies, and in arranging that the Envoy himself should deliver the Governor General's letter in the presence of the King, that he should be accompanied by his own interpreters and permitted to read before His Majesty a complimentary speech, a copy of which accompanied by a translation in the Siamese language was at the same time to be laid before the King: and that in addition to the whole of the members of the Mission, the Commander of the Brig Guardian and Mr. Robert Hunter, a British Merchant residing at Bangkok should be admitted to the audience, and that we should be furnished with state boats and suitable conveyances to take us to the Palace. We agreed however once to perform a part of the Siamese mode of saluting His Majesty viz. to join our hands and raise them three times against the forehead,* and consented that the Envoy should not deliver the Governor General's letter into His Majesty's hands in the

* Note.—Something like this action is used in most Courts in India and was performed before the King of Caubul by Mr. Elphinstone who observes "we then held up our hands towards Heaven as if praying for the King." The ceremonial in Siam however is more like supplication addressed to the King himself.

same manner as the French Ambassadors had formerly done, but deposit it in a Gold Vase to be placed a few paces in front of His Majesty. It is probable that we might have arranged these points also conformably to our own ideas, but so earnest an appeal was made to us not to shock the feelings and pride of the Court as to omit all Siamese modes of salutation, or to approach close to His Majesty's person whilst the first Ministers of the Country would be lying prostrate at a distance, that we deemed it prudent to take the credit of making these concessions.

We were introduced with great ceremony to His Majesty the King of Siam on the 16th December, and to His Highness the Wangna, or as he is styled by the native Christians of Bangkok the second king, on the 18th, followed on both occasions by hundreds of Boats and an immense concourse of spectators. A house was specially built for our accommodation, a boat with ten boatmen was allotted to us, and a monthly allowance of 240 Ticals from the King, and 120 from the Wangna was granted for the expenses of our Table. Rice and fruit were often sent to our followers, and Siamese dishes regularly brought to us from the King and Wangna, tokens of Royal favor and consideration that were said to excite the surprize and envy of every Siamese who witnessed them. We were next introduced to Chao Krom Meun Soorin and Chao Krom Meun Rak, the princes of the blood placed at the head of the Foreign and Judicial Departments of the Kingdom, and we succeeded in being allowed to visit the two principal Ministers of the Country, Chao Phya Chak-kri and Chao Phya Akka Mahasena or Kalahom, and several of the subordinate Ministers such as Phya Kray, the Wangna's Phra Khlang, Phya Wisoot his Deputy, Phya Phiphut Kosa the Deputy of the King's Phra Khlang, Chao Phya Maha Yotha, the General who Commanded the Siamese Detachment near Martaban, and the Governors of Ligor and Singora. Finding the

Foreign Minister Chao Phya Phra Khlang unfriendly to the Mission and indisposed to report all our verbal representations to his colleagues, the other five ministers, with whom he forms the Privy Council of the Kingdom, we opened a communication in writing with these authorities, and prevailed upon them to allow us to attend their meetings, and discuss and settle, after repeated conferences with the whole of them, the several objects of our Mission. We procured an audience of leave from the King on the 17th July, and from the Wangna on the 18th, on the night of which day we quitted Bangkok, charged with a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce which we had negotiated with the Ministers and a reply from the King himself to the Letter from the Right Honble. the Governor General.

The complimentary part of the Mission therefore it is to be hoped will be considered as satisfactorily fulfilled.

The conciliatory part however was more difficult. We have already mentioned the report of the the Expedition at Singapore sent up from Tringano. Major Frith's affair with the Governor of Ch'homphon and the Rajah of Ligor's discussion with the Government of Prince of Wales Island had previously excited much apprehension of our views and future proceedings. Reinforcements of men and arms had been sent down by the Court of Siam to both Ligor and Ch'homphon, and the strongest injunctions issued to the Siamese officers contiguous to Mergui and Tavoy to avoid all communications with those British Posts. The letters which Captain Burney had delivered to the Governor of Junkceylon to be forwarded through the Governors of Chaiya, Ch'humphon, and Phiphi were sent up by these Governors to the Capital and opened and read, and even the Rajah of Ligor to whom Captain Burney had entrusted a letter to be forwarded to Mr. Maingy from Ch'homphon, was refused permission to forward

it by Phya Kray, the Wangna's Phra Khlang, who had been specially deputed by the Court to take charge of that place. The letters which were delivered to the Chief of Junkceylon had been written so as to meet the possible case of their being intercepted, and the examination of them at Bangkok had therefore given satisfaction to the Ministers. Still the wildest and most improbable tales respecting the hostile intentions of the British Government continued to be brought to Bangkok by Peguers, Chinese and above all by Malays, who reported that immediately after the conquest of Ava the British Army was to move against Siam, and that the British Government had resolved upon expelling the Siamese from Quedah and taking possession of that territory, and of every other State on the Malay Peninsula. Our Mission was declared to have no other object than to try and force the Court of Siam to consent to these last mentioned arrangements and to the establishment of a factory and Resident at Bangkok, and if successful to gather intelligence respecting the topography and resources of the country, and the best mode of attacking the capital. The first measure also which we had occasion to propose at Bangkok brought down upon us the hostility of almost all the Ministers and subordinate officers of the Court. Viewing the inhuman treatment which the Burmese captives from the Coast of Tenasserim experienced from their Siamese masters, we were urged to make great exertions to effect the immediate release and return of these poor creatures. But they had been allotted as slaves and gratuitous labourers among the different ministers and officers, whose personal interests were strongly opposed to the measure of restoring them. Chao Phya Phra Khlang never forgave us for having put a stop to a splendid temple which a party of these Burmese was building for him, and he was said to be the person who recommended the Court to transmit an order to the Rajah of Ligor, prohibiting him against bringing overland Messrs.

Harris and Leal, who had been left with him. The order reached the Rajah near Ch'humphon, when shortly after at Puttin in about Lat: 11° 28', His Highness made excuses for embarking those Gentlemen in a small boat and forwarding them by water to Bangkok, where they arrived on the 31st January. Patience, firmness and reiterated explanations on our part were at length producing impression on the Court, when in the middle of February a report was circulated that we were about to send the Mission Brig back to Prince of Wales Island for the purpose of leading the way to a fleet of ships destined to attack Bangkok. We had determined upon this measure with a full concurrence of the Ministers, in order to receive any instructions that our Government might desire to convey to us with reference to the then supposed termination of the Burmese war, as well as to procure an additional supply of some articles of provisions for the sepoys of our escort. An offer to detain the Brig pacified the Court, but a few days after, the Syrang of the Mission Brig, who had absconded upon her departure, was apprehended and examined by some of the Principal Siamese Ministers, to whose enquiries as to the real object of our Mission, he uttered the most mischievous falsehoods. He declared that the Brig had certainly been dispatched with the hostile intention before mentioned, that the Envoy was a very dangerous character leagued in Secret Treaty with the Rajah of Ligor to place him on the throne of Siam with the assistance of the British Government and now employed only in collecting intelligence respecting the condition of the country for the information of the Armament, which the Brig Guardian had gone to bring up. At this time also, a Peguer arrived from the neighbourhood of Mergui, and stated that a fleet of 60 ships had been collected at that place, and a Chinese arrived overland from Singora, with a report of an expedition being ready at Prince of Wales Island to proceed against

Bangkok. Troops were called into the capital from the interior, the forts at Paklaat and Paknam were manned and additional defences commenced. All was war and bustle. The situation of the Mission was now by no means comfortable. Not a word uttered by any of us received credit. The boatmen allotted to us were removed and we were evidently viewed with indignation as well as distrust. The renewal of hostilities with Ava also, accounts of which arrived at this very time, threw back our negotiations, the whole of which we found we had to begin again.

As long as this delusion lasted, and it lasted for upwards of a month, we could oppose to it nothing but good humoured and quiet expostulations. At length on the 27th of March, a merchant vessel belonging to Messrs. Morgan, Hunter and Co. arrived from Singapore, and made the Phra Khlang (who the moment its arrival was announced had hurried down to Paknam believing that it was the first of the English expedition.) doubtful of the correctness of the tales which had been brought to the Court. We now transmitted for the consideration of the Ministers the Draft of a Treaty of friendship and Commerce. As this document clearly showed the full extent of the wishes of the British Government it served in some measure to pacify the Court, which saw and admitted the security and advantage such a treaty would afford to Siam, and further that there was only one object, the restoration of the King of Quedah, which it was really disinclined to concede to us.

On the 3d of May the return of the Mission Brig without any other vessel, and with, as it was carefully noted, precisely the same number of guns and fire arms as she before had, tended to convince the most suspicious of the truth and fairness of our proceedings. The ministers now consented to a proposition which we had repeatedly made, of attending their meetings to discuss and finally settle the several articles of a

treaty. After repeated and most earnest attempts to persuade the Court to restore the King of Quedah to his territories, we found that if we pressed the measure we should deviate from the leading article of our instructions and first object of our Mission, conciliation, and render the Court so dissatisfied with the British Government and with ourselves as to preclude the effectual attainment of any of the other objects of our Mission. Under these considerations we determined upon foregoing that question upon certain conditions which will be noticed in another place. This concession materially facilitated the remainder of our negotiations, and certainly inspired the Court with a favourable impression of our moderation and forbearance.

We found the Court of Siam divided into two parties, and headed respectively by the King and Wangna. The King's party is intelligent, moderate and really well disposed to cultivate friendly relations with the British Government. His Majesty was declared to be favorable to our wishes with respect to Quedah, but the Wangna's party is characterized by the conceit, and ignorance natural to the Siamese, and His Highness, under whose special superintendence the southern portion of the Siamese Empire is placed, and into whose separate treasury are received the revenues of Quedah, was most decidedly opposed to the restoration of the Malay Chief of Quedah. Every attempt that we made to press this subject on the Court, irritated and exasperated His Highness, who we heard sent down orders to fortify Quedah, and who on one occasion, as we learnt from a source to which we could not refuse credit, although we ridiculed the intelligence at the time, proposed to the Ministers to hang up the Envoy for presuming to vex the Court with representations concerning Quedah, contrary to the tenor of the Governor General's letter to the King of Siam, and therefore it was to be believed without

any authority from His Lordship. The Wangna is an important personage in the Siamese Government. He is not only in special charge of the Southern portion of the Kingdom, but he is at the head of its military establishment. He must be consulted by the King's Ministers on all public acts of his Majesty. He has his own Court and Ministers corresponding in number and duties with those belonging to the King and he receives one third of the whole revenues of the kingdom. To render such a personage discontented with our negotiations would perhaps have only been to lay the foundation of a war between the two states. The only treaty to be made with such a state as Siam is clearly one which it will be her interest and advantage to keep. By adopting a high tone, that is by intimidation, supposing such a mode of negotiation to have been consonant with the instructions of the Envoy, the Mission might perhaps have carried the Quedah question, but it would have carried nothing else, and whether such a mode of accomplishing that object would have been ultimately an advantage to the British Government, will be shewn in a succeeding paper, in which the whole question respecting the restoration of the King of Quedah, and the right and policy of the British Government adopting the line of conduct recommended by the Government of Prince of Wales Island with respect to the Malay States on the Peninsula of Malacca will be fully discussed. Sound policy as well as the orders of the Governor General in Council pointed out that unless the Mission could effect the restoration of the King of Quedah by amicable negotiation, and make an arrangement by which it would be the interest of the Siamese to abide, the point had much better be conceded. The Mission had to make its selection, to place our relations with the Siamese either on a conciliatory and friendly or an unsettled and hollow footing. Hence amicable tho' at times rather importunate representations were all it con-

sidered itself justified to make, and when these failed, advantage was taken of the influence of the party immediately benefited by such failure to render it less mischievous to our interests, and to effect the other objects of our Mission. Whatever might have been the real intentions of the Rajah of Ligor when he was persuaded in the treaty concluded with him at Quedah, to promise to assist the Envoy towards accomplishing the views of the Penang Government relative to the King of Quedah, there is no question that on his arrival at Bangkok he was obliged, like every other Provincial Siamese Governor or Subordinate Chief, to adopt implicitly and religiously the views and feelings of the leading members of the Court, and His Highness and his party certainly did exert themselves most strenuously to counterbalance the failure of the Mission in matters in which they were immediately interested, by securing it success in all its other objects.

No sort of discredit can result to the British Government from the failure of the Mission to effect the restoration of the Chief of Quedah, for the King and a majority of the Court of Siam are well aware of our power of enforcing compliance with all our wishes, and certainly at no period of our history in India could we so well afford as at the present moment, to conciliate the Siamese by giving them a proof of our moderation and forbearance.

Nothing could have been easier to the late Mission than to have brought on a war with the Government of Siam * with a much more arduous task to conciliate and pacify such a jealous race, under the circumstances in which we found it. Whether the Mission has succeeded in effectually conciliating the Court of Siam [time] only can shew, and as regards a continuance of its friendly sentiments, much no doubt will depend upon the conduct of those officers who may be placed in communication with the Raja of

* sic? it was

Ligor and other Siamese Chiefs. That the amicable manner in which the Mission quitted Bangkok has produced a very favorable impression we have already received intelligence from two British Merchants Messrs. Hunter and Mallock, residents there, with whom the inhabitants have renewed commercial intercourse, which had been stopped during the period the Court was doubtful of the result of our negotiations.

It is impossible to conceive the mischief that is done at Bangkok by the tales of terror brought by those who, seeing the Siamese already mistrustful of our views and intentions, tell them whatever they will most readily believe, and most like to hear. Fortunately, true courage and suspicion are seldom companions. If the Siamese only possessed as much spirit as they shew distrust, they would several months ago have been incited to declare war against the English Government, and to attack some of our conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim, of the former limited strength of the Garrisons in which quarter, they were well apprized.

On the subject of the Burmese War, in addition to the communications with the Siamese which we have before noticed, we had seen at Singapore a letter addressed by Chao Phya Phra Khlang to Mr. Crawfurd on the 21st August 1825, stating that Phya Maha Yotha had returned to the capital from Martaban to attend the funeral of the late King, and declaring that "when the rainy season is over, it is His Majesty's design to send the Phya Maha Yotha again to cooperate with the English against the Burmans. This will be either in October or November as you wished, as also to supply the British Commanders with Elephants, Buffaloes and Oxen. His Majesty has ordered me to direct all the Chiefs of the Western and Northern Provinces to do so if they are needed." At Bangkok, however, we soon found that the Court of Siam never had any intention of cooperating with us

in the war against Ava, and that it sought only to seize for itself whatever it might without danger either from us or the Burmese. Upon the first intelligence of the expedition against Rangoon, the King had enquired the number of our troops, and on being told that it amounted to about 10,000 men, he observed "those men will only be seized and made grass cutters to the King of Ava's Elephants." For a long time the Court of Siam would not believe a word of our success, and at length, when the truth was at last forced upon it, Chao Phya Maha Yotha, a Pegu emigrant, with a Detachment of Peguers and Siamese, was sent to take *possession of Martaban*, but with two sets of dispatches, to be ceded * according as he might find the English or the Burmese the victorious party. He found Martaban already in our possession, and he then opened the communication which we have before mentioned with Sir A. Campbell and Colonel Smith, deceiving us into a belief that his Detachment had been sent to co-operate with us, but desirous only of acquiring correct information respecting the progress of the war. Agreeably to his instructions he seized as many of the Burmese inhabitants as he could and watched near Martaban an opportunity for gaining any advantages for Siam out of the reverses of either party. He returned to the capital with a thousand Peguers, principally women and children several of whom had British Certificates of protection. Some difference of opinion took place between him and a Phya Phiphat, a former deputy of the Phra Khlang, who had been sent to his Detachment. Phya Phiphat died shortly after his return to the capital, and this, it was said, had saved him from severe punishment.

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Another officer, Phya Soorasena, the deputy of the Kalahom, had been sent towards Tavoy on a similar errand, and he was the person who communicated with Major Balmain from Punjeck, the Burmese name for the Siamese Menam noi, a post upon a small river of

the same name, which forms the north western branch of the Meklong. He brought away about 200 of the inhabitants of Tavoy, and died shortly after his return to the capital.

The Governor of Ch'homphon was ordered to the capital and confined in irons in consequence of his dispute with Major Frith. But the truth is, the fears of the Court of Siam that the dispute would have involved it with the British Government had led it to sacrifice the Governor of Ch'homphon, who had only been a little too zealous in the execution of the Court's orders, to make as many Burmese prisoners as possible. It is singular that the Governor of Ch'homphon also died at the capital shortly after he arrived there. He carried away about 1600 inhabitants from the districts of Mergui and Tenasserim.

During the war the King of Ava opened a communication with the King of Siam, at one time offering to assist at the funeral of the late King, and again beseeching the King of Siam to be neutral in the war, stating that the English had suddenly, it was true, possessed themselves of many parts of his dominions, but that they would never reach his capital, and that the Burmese would soon expel them from the Country provided the Siamese only remained neutral. This information was implicitly credited by the Siamese Ministers, who, however inimical to the Burmese, were by no means satisfied with our successes. A regard for their common jealousy of our power, and fear of our ulterior proceedings made them extremely anxious to see the war concluded. A few days before the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, Maha Yotha had returned with his Detachment to the frontiers of Martaban, and a native Christian, who had met them passing up the Meklong in boats, assured us they were plundering every boat belonging to their own countrymen which came near them.

Our first application to the Court was in pursuance of our instructions, for a supply of draft and carriage cattle, to be forwarded to Sir A. Campbell's army. The Phra Khlang, who had written the letter above cited to Mr. Crawfurd, declared that the Siamese could not comply with our application, as it would be contrary to their religious tenets to send us animals to be killed for food of our troops. We pointed out that we did not eat elephants, and that it was draft and carriage cattle that the army required. We were told that the Siamese would not believe [but] that the English would kill and eat whatever animals might be sent. To a written application subsequently made to the Ministers accompanied by an offer of defraying all expences, they replied that to send an army and elephants and horses to receive pay for fighting would be so unusual, that the proposition could not even be mentioned to the King; that the animals were necessary parts of the Siamese Army; that if the army did not move against the Burmese, they would be employed on some other service in the kingdom, and that it was not desirable that they should be put in an unserviceable condition. The truth came out afterwards, when some of our sepoys and Mr. Leal passed through Maha Yotha's post. The Siamese had really no draft or carriage cattle to spare. Maha Yotha had not more than 20 elephants and 150 horses with his army, and no buffaloes or oxen of any description.

We early saw the contemptible nature of the Siamese soldiery, and the delusion of expecting any thing like a cooperation from them in the war against Ava. But on the 27th December we received a letter from Captain Fenwick, Commanding at Martaban, shewing us that Sir Archibald Campbell had planned the campaign under an expectation of Siamese cooperation, and of Maha Yotha proceeding with his Doorawuddee Army to cover the Division of the British Army under Colonel Pepper moving against Toonghas. We were then induced to recommend

to the Court to order Maha Yotha to join Colonel Pepper, but we were answered that unless Martaban and Tavoy were [surrendered] unconditionally to the Siamese, to be formed into *points d'appui* for their line of operations, as well as depôts for their provisions and stores, their armies could not advance. We pointed out that Tavoy was too distant from the scene of warfare and offered to engage that every fighting man of the Siamese army, whilst employed by us should be supplied by our commissariat with the same rations as our own men, but the possession of both those towns, with the whole of their provinces, was declared indispensable. The truth here also came out afterwards, that the army of Dooarawuddee did not consist of more than 1000 or 1200 men, who were employed in cutting Sapan Wood and cultivating cotton near Menam noi, and that whole of the Siamese detachments called * on the Frontiers of Tavoy never exceeded 3000 men, while on the frontiers of Tenasserim, although there was a large force of 8 or 9000 men, it was placed at Ch'homphon as a measure of defence and precaution against any retaliation which the incursions of the former Phya of Ch'homphon might urge us to use. We succeeded only in sending some sepoys from our escort to Martaban and Tavoy with dispatches to Sir Archibald Campbell and Mr. Commissioner Maingy, communicating the actual state of affairs at Bangkok. Yet some distrust was entertained by the Court that our object in sending those sepoys might be to ascertain the direction and condition of the roads into Siam, and orders were therefore given to convey our messengers by circuitous and difficult routes.

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We regretted to see that the letters addressed to the Siamese by the British Commissioners in Ava, as well as by our officers at Martaban, recommending the advance of Maha Yotha's force, led the

Court to believe that such was the necessity for the aid of the Siamese Troops, that if it only held out a little, it would be certain of obtaining possession of Martaban and Tavoy upon its own terms. Some idea of the inconveniences to which Siamese co-operation, had it ever come, would have subjected us, may be inferred from the reasons why the Court of Siam, as declared by one of its own ministers, desired to obtain the entire occupation of the Provinces of Tavoy and Martaban before it engaged to march its troops against Ava. It was stated that the Court feared that the habits and manners of the Siamese Soldiery could never assimilate with those of ours, that to pillage and plunder are the regular parts of the Siamese mode of warfare, which the Court could not attempt to forbid; that it is an established rule in their wars for the officers and soldiers to seize whatever property may belong to the officers or subjects of the enemy, as much as for the Government to take whatever property belongs to the Government of the enemy; that even when the King of Siam travels from one place to another, his soldiers and attendants are accustomed to seize whatever they see and like; that the Siamese soldier could not be prevented from plundering whatever he took a fancy to, even if assured by us of daily rations; and that as the Court of Siam knew that such practices are not, and would not be tolerated by us, it was certain that if its troops joined ours, their conduct would soon bring on the most serious disputes between the two nations.

It may appear strange that the Court of Siam had not collected a larger army than the above-mentioned two Detachments near Martaban and Tavoy, and the force at Ch'homphon. But the fact is the Siamese Court would have found it extremely difficult to have fulfilled the boast which it had made in its correspondence with the British Com-

missioners in Ava, of collecting tens of thousands of troops. We certainly read in history of the Siamese during the wars with Pegue and Laos assembling immense armies, but the habits of the existing inhabitants and constitution of their military, as well as the altered condition of the kingdom, would preclude the possibility of such a step being adopted at present, excepting in a case of the last extremity. Although it may be presumption to differ from such an authority as Mr. Crawfurd, the members of the late Mission cannot agree with him in estimating the population of the Empire of Siam at so high a rate as five millions. In the time of Loubère it was reckoned at only 1,900,000 and admitting that account did not include the Malayan Principalities or Siamese possessions in Laos and Cambodia, yet since the period it was formed, the population of the Southern portion of the kingdom and on the frontiers towards Pegue, was almost entirely destroyed by the Burmese invasions under Alompra and under the General of Shembuan and Menderagee. Ligor, Camburi, Phrippri and Ratphri, were in Loubère's time large and flourishing towns, but they, as well as the whole country around them, are now very scantily populated, and almost a desert, as some of the Mission had an opportunity of seeing. The frontiers of Siam towards Cambodia also have been much depopulated from incessant disputes with the inhabitants of that country, and of the portion subject to Cochin China. The wild and mountainous countries of Laos cannot be considered as very favorable to population and they also have suffered severely during the last century, being alternately in the possession of the Burmese and Siamese. Fitch, an English traveller in the year 1587, passed from Pegue to Chaung mai "through many fruitful and pleasant countries" but such a journey at present would shew nothing save forests

and deserts. All the enquiries made by the members of the Mission tended also to prove that the population of Siam forms the same curious anomaly as what Bruce observed in the Countries of Syria and Arabia that the proportion of women is nearly three to one man. Every Siamese confirmed this as a well known fact, and referred us [to] every house at Bangkok where the female children would invariably be found to bear a most unequal proportion to the males. Without dwelling however on this alleged disparity of births, it is well known that the service which the King of Siam demands from a portion of the males is most destructive to human life. This service is not limited to 4 or 6 months as some European authors mention, but according to the caprice of the Sovereign and his ministers, and the exigency of any public works. We were assured that the construction of the building in which the remains of the late King were burnt and which had occupied the workmen upwards of 12 months, had cost several hundreds of lives, and that no less than 500 men had died last year in the labor of transporting to Bangkok from the interior, an enormous tree intended for a large boat for the present King.

The standing army of Siam may be said to be composed of this portion of the inhabitants who owe service to the King, who are styled "*Rachakans*" and the number of whom in the whole Empire is estimated by the Portuguese Consul at Bangkok at only 40,000. Not only all officers who bear any titles above the rank of Luang, and their families and dependants, but all Chinese and priests forming a large portion of the inhabitants, and slaves, and all who can pay a money compensation are exempted from this service to the King. The "*Rachakans*" are builders, woodcutters and cultivators for the King, as well as soldiers, and when detached on

military service, the want of labourers in some other departments of the King's works is felt. A portion only of them therefore can be detached without inconvenience, which none of the remaining and exempted part of the population would be inclined to remedy. In case of serious danger to the state of course the whole of the inhabitants of the Country could be levied *en masse*, as appears to have been the case in Ava during the late war, and in Siam during her former wars with that State and Laos, and under Sovereigns ambitious of military glory. But the long state of peace and repose which the free portion of the inhabitants of Siam has enjoyed, renders it equally indisposed to, and unfit for military service, and the above description of the standing army will preclude all idea of such soldiers being either disciplined, available for distant service, or well inclined for it. The families of the men being detained as hostages in charge of the Chiefs of the districts to which they severally belong, must constitute the only bond of union in a Siamese army detached on service.

Maha Yotha, in his correspondence with our officers in Ava, must have been instructed to give an erroneous impression of his power and influence in Siam, and of the objects for which his force had been sent to the frontiers. We ascertained that he had no power to act or move but as he might be ordered by the Court of Siam, to which he was obliged to refer on the most trifling points, and that he and his detachment though principally composed of Peguers, styled themselves "the army of Doorawuddee"* and were Siamese subjects, instructed and anxious more to effect the aggrandizement of Siam than to promote the restoration of their own independence, or the re-establishment of their ancient kingdom. We visited Maha Yotha on his return to Bangkok, and found him certainly

* The Bali name for Siam. (!)

of most respectable appearance and superior manners, but to shew the jealousy with which the Siamese Court view him, we may mention that we learnt after our visit, that two of the subordinate Ministers were concealed in a room adjoining that in which the Chief received us during the whole time of our conference. He declared to us that no branch of the ancient royal race of Pegue now remains, and that he is the son of a former Pegue Governor of Martaban, who had retired with his family to Siam upon the annihilation of the Pegue Dynasty.

But the number of tales that Maha Yotha and his followers sent to Bangkok is incredible. Not a week passed without some intelligence of disasters experienced by the British Army; and however absurd were these tales, the Court at one time credited them in preference to the official accounts received and communicated by us. Once the Burmese had succeeded in blowing up the whole English army with gunpowder. Another time in drowning it by flooding the whole country, another time in destroying it by poisoning all the wells and streams in its neighbourhood Three several times accounts were brought of the Burmese drawing the English into an ambuscade upon pretence of meeting them to treat for peace, and completely destroying them. Another time, during the negotiation for a peace, the King of Ava had, according to custom, sent down to each person of the English army a lady, who had risen at night and slain her companion. Just before the close of the war, a tale was brought that the Burmese had succeeded in cutting a ditch in rear of Sir Archibald Campbell's army, which could neither advance nor retreat, and some time even after the Treaty of Peace was signed Phya Ratnachak, who had been for a long time at Martaban, brought a

circumstantial story of the Burmese having attacked and overwhelmed our army whilst evacuating the country, and of 30 ships full of wounded having sailed from Rangoon. The ready credit, which these absurd tales received from the Court of Siam, too clearly manifested its real feelings towards us, while such accounts had a most mischievous effect upon our proceedings, by unsettling the public mind at Bangkok, augmenting the spirit of procrastination which characterizes the Siamese at all times, and adding to the difficulty of bringing our negotiations with the Siamese Ministers to a close.

Under these circumstances the termination of the Burmese war even did not prove of so much aid to our negotiations with the Court of Siam as might have been expected. The abortive negotiations at Patanago gave the Siamese Ministers, who had confidently predicted such a result, a very great advantage over us, and even after the receipt of a copy of the treaty concluded at Yandaboo, accounts were daily brought to Bangkok and believed by most of the Ministers, of some foul act of treachery being committed by the Burmese against the English. We were therefore obliged to found arguments upon the successful termination of the war with more caution and hesitation than what we had done after the treaty signed at Patanago. At our distance from and with our limited communications with the seat of war, it was impossible for us to prevent such false tales of disaster from impairing the effect of our success in the minds of the Siamese Ministers.

Altho' the circumstance of our obliging the Government of Ava to cede treasure to us prevented the Siamese Court from questioning our decided superiority in the war so much as it would otherwise have been inclined to do, in consequence of our army not having taken the Burmese capital, still the

Siamese are so fickle and thoughtless, as well as procrastinating a race, that the impression, such as it was which our successes against Ava had produced, was fast wearing away, and we saw that if we did not take immediate advantage of this impression, the expiration of a few more weeks would revive and strengthen the opposition of the party hostile to us at Bangkok, would dissipate the fears of those members of the Court who believed in the reports of our hostile intentions, and would preclude all chance of our bringing the Court of Siam to any adjustment of the points at issue between us.

Mr. Crawfurd having at one time been of opinion, that the negotiation with the Siamese would unquestionably be conducted to most advantage at the seat of our military operations, and there by an agent of the Governor General negotiating with an accredited Envoy from Bangkok on the spot, or corresponding across the country with the Court direct, it became one of our early endeavours to persuade the Court to depute an Agent to the Head Quarters of our Army to confer and arrange all matters with the British Commissioners. Although we repeatedly pressed this point, we never made the smallest impression. We found that no Siamese Ministers would ever dream of proceeding upon such a Mission, and that such are the jealousy and distrust entertained by the Court towards its own officers, that if one had been deputed, he would have received no powers to act on the spot, or to ensure to us that any part of his proceedings would be ultimately confirmed at the capital. There were many important points besides the direction of a Siamese Auxiliary Army, namely, the contemplated re-establishment of the Pegue Empire, the settlement of mutual boundaries and the extent of territory desired by the Siamese, for the due arrangement of all of which we repeatedly pointed out without

success the advantage of the Court of Siam deputing an Agent with full powers to the spot. Nothing was more adverse to its customs or ideas. To induce it to adopt such a measure, we at one time even promised to apply to Sir Archibald Campbell to to place the Siamese troops in possession of Martaban, but upon hinting only one day to the Phra Khlang the expediency of his proceeding to that quarter, he seemed as much startled as if we had proposed to him to make a voyage to Europe. That a correspondence with the Court of Siam across the Country however would have effected nothing may be seen by the letters which the Phra Khlang wrote to Mr. Crawfurd, and by those which actually passed between the British Commissioners in Ava and the Siamese Ministers, as well as by the replies which the Court returned to the Memorials that we addressed to it. The official style of correspondence among the Siamese is puerile, intolerably verbose, regardless of truth and most studiously vague and indefinite. We were always obliged to reiterate an application before we could obtain a precise answer, and there is no question that if we had not held personal conferences with the Ministers our negotiations would not even now have been brought to any conclusion.

It may be here necessary to state, that according to the constitution of the Siamese Government, no writing can be shown to the King until after the six ministers forming the Privy Council have examined and ascertained that it is fit to meet the Royal Eye. Expressions in one or two of our first memorials to the ministers were objected to, and upon our refusing to alter them, we were privately assured that the documents had not been laid before the King. Knowing His Majesty to be the most enlightened and moderate man of the Court, and well disposed towards us, we made it a study in our later memorials to produce our arguments in such language as to deprive

the Ministers of all pretext for suppressing our correspondence. This explanation will serve to account for some of our letters not displaying so high a tone as we often adopted at our conferences with the Ministers, where we saw it might be used with some advantage, although still very sparingly. Such are the pride and ignorance of the Siamese Ministers, that mild and affable demeanour on the part of a negotiator subjects him to neglect and contempt, while an earnest and high tone irritates and keeps them at a distance. Yet we found a prudent mixture of both lines of conduct the most advantageous mode of treating not only the Ministers but every other class of Siamese. Warmth of language is indispensable to rouse a Siamese from his habitual apathy and self-conceit, but when he has been roused to pay due attention he must be soothed into conceding what is required, and prevented, if possible from separating with his pride wounded.

The native Portuguese Interpreters and officers at the Court of Siam are a most timid and degraded set, and appear before their Siamese Chiefs with much more abject servility and trembling than their own Siamese followers. They dare not mention or even interpret to a Siamese superior any thing that they believe calculated to displease him, and he on all occasions treats them with the utmost contempt. The Phra Khlang has most communication with these Interpreters, and his aversion to Europeans is most remarkable. Every time that the Envoy uttered a disagreeable truth or pressed a point, that Minister viewed such conduct as an act of disrespect and insolence, and it was often ludicrous to observe his astonishment at what he considered the impertinence and presumption of the Envoy. Silence in return to an application or observation implies a refusal or dissatisfaction on the part of a Siamese officer, and no Interpreter dares repeat a speech which may be so received. But however convenient such a practice might be to a Siamese, in the

situation of the Envoy he was often obliged to insist upon an answer, and force the Minister to notice what had been said, and such conduct always provoked and offended that proud and arrogant Chief. Unhappily all Europeans are considered by the Siamese officers of the same race and caste as their native Portuguese subjects, and it is to this circumstance rather than to what a late author * supposes, to their having submitted to accumulate[d] injuries and to the most degrading insults, in order to gain paltry advantages, that the character of Europeans stands but very low with the Siamese. So far from such a charge of unworthy humiliation being applicable to English traders at Siam, their fault would appear to have been one of an entirely opposite character. In the time of Captain Hamilton in 1719, he was told that the English had not good manners enough to be admitted into the presence of so great a king as that of Siam, and Turpin in his History of Siam states, that the haughtiness of the English and their refractory spirit could not bend to the yoke of a despot, and obliged them to quit Siam. Of almost every British vessel that has visited Bangkok for some years past, the commander whilst there, was engaged in continual disputes with the Siamese and departed in anger, leaving on the apathetic minds of the Siamese very unfavorable impressions of the violence and intemperance of the British character. The spirituous liquor *sumshoo* also is extremely cheap at Bangkok, and it is scarcely possible to prevent a clandestine introduction of it on board of vessels. The Siamese viewed with the utmost horror the conduct of European sailors belonging to one or two English vessels that visited Siam with European Crews. But the truth is, none but men of the most placid and placable tempers ought to go to Siam. It requires the exertion of the most unwearied patience and of the most imperturbable temper to refrain from resenting the falsehood, extortions and barefaced attempts at imposition, which a trader is

* Finlayson

doomed to encounter daily at Bangkok. Some of the Commanders of English vessels, who parted on bad terms with the Siamese, have revenged themselves afterwards by writing alarming letters to the Phra Khlang and other Siamese officers informing them that the English would soon visit and chastise the Government of Siam.

The re-establishment of the Pegue Kingdom was never desired by the Siamese Government which dreads the removal of its Pegue subjects who compose some of its most useful artisans, and many of whom are employed by the Court in situations of great trust and confidence. A large portion of the population of Siam has always consisted of Peguers. Mr. Crawfurd in 1822 tells us that they amounted to about 43,000 souls, and we were easily convinced that no inducement would prevail on the Siamese to deprive themselves of the services of so useful a race or permit it to quit the country. There are several Pegue inhabitants of Siam claiming descent from Pegue families of greater rank and antiquity than what Maha Yotha can boast, but that Chief certainly is the first in capacity and energy. He is considered as the best military officer in the service of Siam and has been most often and successfully employed against the Burmese. But had the Court of Siam understood for a moment that the British Government contemplated placing him on the throne of Pegue, he would have been immediately recalled and he would most probably have lost his head. Two of his brothers are said to have been included in the cruel execution which signalized the late King of Siam's accession to the throne of every Chief of merit or influence near it. He himself escaped by being absent from the capital at the time, and his fidelity during his late deputation towards Martaban was ensured in the usual Siamese manner by his wife and children being retained at Bangkok in the power of the Court. We had reason

to suspect that in Maha Yotha's communication with the British Officers at Martaban the flattering temptation of a throne was seducing him in some measure from his allegiance to Siam, and that he was transmitting to the Court the abovementioned accounts of disasters befalling our army in order to alarm his masters into permitting him to join the English, and stop the progress of the Burmese, for the Siamese were equally averse to the Burmese as to the English obtaining a decided superiority. Considering that this Chief's father long held employment under the Siamese Government and that he himself has served it from infancy in situations of command, his secession no doubt would have been followed by hundreds of the Pegue emigrants in Siam. But this event would only have served to renew all the quarrels between the Siamese and Peguers, and to draw the British Government into a labyrinth of Indo-Chinese politics. The Peguers are divided by the Siamese into two parties, as they are attached or subject to themselves or to the Burmese, and these are respectively styled "*Mon Thai*" and "*Mon Phoma.*" The latter would appear sometimes to be called "Abassees." The principal Peguers by long residence and service, and by marriage and other connections in either Ava or Siam, are either Burmese or Siamese subjects in mind as well as body. A few of the second classes only may possess some sentiments of patriotism, or desire of independence, but they could never display such virtues against the power of Siam and Ava, unless they were placed under the absolute pupillage of the British Government.

A Pegue subject of Siam if placed at the head of any state which we might have desired to establish in Pegue would have been less likely to prevent the reintroduction into it of Burmese influence than any Tallien Chief, who may have served the Government of Ava, or who may have been brought up under it.

But unless the Court of Siam acquiesced in the arrangement, which nothing but intimidation could have induced it to have done, this plan of settlement would have been ineffectual. The reestablishment of the Pegue Kingdom therefore would have been more open to objection, and more likely to involve the British Government in extensive complicated relations than the measure of our undertaking the direct charge and Government of the conquered territory.

It may be mentioned here, that the proper limits of the antient Pegue Kingdom seem to have been about the 14th degree of north latitude, or as far as Tavoy, according to early European travellers. Captain Hamilton in the beginning of the 18th Century asserts the limits extended as far as "Maravi" which Symes and other authors consider Mergui, but that Hamilton did not mean that town is evident from having but a few pages after given a full description of it under the name of "Merjee" and as he describes Merjee as the next place on the continent to the Southward of Martaban, and does not mention Tavoy at all, his Maravi is most probably a corruption of the Burmese Mien Taive or Dawe, Town of Tavoy, which was certainly in existence long before Hamilton visited India.

Every proposition which the Mission made to the Siamese of settling the boundaries between the Siamese dominions and our conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim was received with extreme distrust. We were first answered that there could be no occasion for settling boundaries, until it were ascertained that we could retain those conquests against the Burmese, and we were afterwards told to make enquiries from the old inhabitants of Tavoy and Mergui, and fix our boundaries according to their statements. The boundaries between the Siamese and Burmese consisted of a tract of mountain and forest which is several miles [? wide], and which could not be said to belong to either nation. Each had detachments on the lookout

to seize any person of the other party found straying within the tract. The Court of Siam seems anxious to prevent any reduction of this breadth of waste and jungle, that has ever constituted the best protection to Siam in that direction, and it may perhaps be considered good policy in us to keep up this tract of desolation between the Siamese and any possessions that the British Government may retain on the Coast of Tenasserim as the intervention of a mountainous waste may reduce the chances of dispute and collision. The arrangement to which the Mission at length brought the Siamese to acquiesce in the 3rd Article of the Treaty will, it is hoped sufficiently provide for the settlement of any doubts that may arise respecting the limits of the Siamese dominions and our possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim. But the Court of Siam at present is unwilling to see us form roads of communication through the border wastes, not only as the measure may open an approach to its capital, but as it may facilitate the escape into our territories of Pegue Emigrants and other inhabitants from Siam.

The great trade which once existed with Siam through Mergui was entirely stopped when the Burmese took possession of the latter place and destroyed the old city of Tenasserim in 1759. As long as the Burmese continued in possession of the Coast of Tenasserim the former trade, of course could not be expected to revive, but with a port on that Coast in our possession, the reopening of the old channel of trade could not be difficult. The commerce of Siam itself has but recently begun to recover from the consequences of the Burmese successes of that period, and with our principles of encouraging and protecting free trade and intercourse, joined to the growing importance and accumulation of the Commerce of Bangkok and the aversion of the Siamese to navigation, the old overland course must be reopened and re-established, if a perfectly good understanding only be

maintained between the two Governments. The first and for a long time the only attempts will have to be made by our own subjects, by Chinese and natives of Hindostan and of the Coast of Coromandel. The Siamese at present object to any Burmese or Peguer entering their dominions from our possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim and they consider the former trade with that Coast as a matter of History, adducing the paucity of elephants there now, as a proof of the impossibility of reviving it. But the Chinese and natives of Hindostan and of the Coast of Coromandel are after all, the only portion of our subjects likely to engage in such a trade and when the Siamese observe with what comparatively little difficulty and how profitably it is conducted they will soon seek a share in it.

On the subject of cession of territory to Siam the Mission found it extremely difficult to persuade the Court to disclose its real wishes. Some schism was said to exist in the Siamese cabinet concerning the policy of accepting any territory on the Coast of Tenasserim. Some of the Ministers referred to the treacherous conduct in former years of Burmese and Siamese Governors of Tavoy and Mergui and argued that if the Court formed establishments in that quarter it would lead to the repetition of such acts of treachery. The English, as well as the Burmese they maintained, would have an opportunity of bribing or intriguing with the Siamese Governors in that quarter, for a ready admission from thence into the Siamese territories. But that the majority of the Court coveted territory on the Coast of Tenasserim was evident from the Maha Yotha and Phya Soora Sena having been detached, in the first instance, as the Ministers themselves avowed, to seize upon Martaban and Tavoy, and from the attempts which the Court of Siam subsequently made to persuade the British Commissioners in Ava to cede those Pro-

vinces to it upon a mere promise, which there is reason to believe it never intended to fulfil, of cooperating in the war against Ava. In that manner, and in no other, would the Court have received territory from us. The Ministers took great pains to explain to the Mission that Martaban and Tavoy were not necessary to Siam, and that they required possession of them for the purpose only of being enabled to cooperate in the war with more effect. But they took no steps for collecting such an army as would have been of service, and only proposed to do so, after they were put in possession of Tavoy and Martaban, when even if their promise had been sincere, it would have been too late to have fulfilled it with any prospect of advantage to us. The Ministers in the first instance declared Mergui and Tavoy to belong of right to Siam, and the Mission was informed that possession of those places was never regularly ceded to the Burmese by Treaty as Symes would appear to have understood. Both nations discontinued extensive warfare from exhaustion and not by mutual consent or any formal Treaty of Peace.

The Ministers subsequently refused to acknowledge their desire of receiving territory from us, both from an unwillingness to grant any real equivalent in return, and from a suspicion that the cession would be coupled by us with some unpleasant conditions. Still the Mission left Bangkok with an impression that the Siamese would readily accept of Martaban and Tavoy but that they would not willingly cede any thing in return, not even the restoration of Quedah.

It is extremely difficult however to persuade such a capricious and mistrustful Court as that of Siam to disclose its real views and feelings, and it is scarcely possible for a British negotiator to form any rational conjecture respecting grounds and motives of action which are not founded on the same modes of reasoning as would govern the conduct of a European Court.

In any plan for ceding a portion of our conquests to Siam two points require to be considered. First that she could retain the territory against even the reduced power of Ava, and secondly the inhabitants would readily receive their new masters, or at least not experience from them an undue measure of oppression. Martaban once belonged to Siam, and was afterwards the point at which the Burmese armies were always collected for the purpose of invading Siam. It appears capable of being made a post of considerable strength, while it is inhabited chiefly by Peguers who were in extensive communication with their brethren in Siam during the whole of the late war. The Siamese Ministers also seemed to put the chief value upon this province until a report was brought to Bangkok of the Country being depopulated and of the town of Martaban being destroyed by fire. The inhabitants of the Province of Ye also are said to be Peguers. But the Provinces of Tavoy, * Mergui and Tenasserim are inhabited by a race of Burmese, and judging from the cruel and inhuman treatment experienced by the captives brought from those Provinces to Bangkok during the last year, we saw that the cession to the Siamese of any part of those conquests with the inhabitants was to be deprecated by every consideration of humanity. The first act of the Siamese would be to carry away as slaves to Bangkok the population of those Provinces, and no negotiations with the Court would succeed in ensuring good treatment to those Burmese. This was a conviction forced upon Captain Burney at Bangkok, against opinions which he had previously entertained, for the plan which he had submitted to the Governor General in Council for negotiating the restoration of the King of Quedah involved a cession of territory on the Coast of Tenasserim as an equivalent to the Court of Siam.

* Note. A census just taken of the population of Tavoy exhibits only 600 Peguers of whom 200 have lately arrived. Mergui has scarcely a Pegue inhabitant.

Still the Government of Prince of Wales Island

continues impressed with the expediency of removing the Siamese from Quedah, and as serious doubts are entertained of the policy of the British Government retaining possession of the whole extent of territory ceded by the Burmese on the Coast of Tenasserim, a plan may perhaps be yet devised for reconciling most of the objections and securing perhaps all that is really worth securing. Were the British Government to retain, with the sovereignty of all the islands off that coast, a sufficient spot either at Amherst Town or Mergui as a commercial post only, such a position would soon secure an extensive channel for our commerce, would soonest yield a return to us, and would enable us to exercise as little or as much interference as we might please with both Siam and Ava. The same objections as have before been urged against the restoration of the Pegue Kingdom would apply with greater force to any scheme for setting up a minor independent state in any part of this territory. But the inhabitants might be offered lands and other indulgences at the proposed commercial post, or upon any of the islands and the rest of the territory, while such of the Pegue or other inhabitants as preferred remaining upon it might then be delivered to the Siamese, upon condition that they ceded in return all that the Government of Prince of Wales Island has pointed out.* No plan however can be devised for disposing of these conquests without some objections, and the plan suggested above would involve these difficulties. By bringing Siam on this side of her border wastes, and in closer contact with Ava, we should be setting them in immediate hostilities which

* Namely—1st. The disavowal by the Siamese Government of all claims of superiority over any of the Malayan States on the Peninsula South of the State of Patani.

2dly. The restoration of the King of Quedah.

3dly. The cession of the Island of Salang or Junkceylon to the British Government.

would ruin the contiguous territories, and destroy all those sources of advantage that we might expect to flow into our neighbouring commercial post, unless we resolved upon undertaking the task of keeping the peace between those two states from that post. We must also be prepared to enforce a compliance on the part of Siam with the arrangements which the Government of Prince of Wales Island has recommended. Rather than any unconditional cession of territory should be made to Siam, it might be considered better to restore the whole of those conquests to the Burmese, and enable them to keep the Siamese from prosecuting their designs to the Southward, unless it be supposed that such a diversion in favor of the Malay Principalities would be equally created by setting to Siam the new and troublesome task of maintaining possessions so immediately in contact with the Burmese. The Mission had an opportunity of visiting Mergui and Tavoy on its return to Calcutta. The Supreme Government labours under some difficulty in obtaining a full account of the nature of the ceded territory in this direction. While some public officers are unwilling to depreciate the value of conquests which form the principal results of the late expensive war, the opinions of others are likely to be biassed by a consideration of the important duties that they have been called upon to perform, among a new and interesting race of people. But population is the great desideratum in the ceded territory, the inhabitants not exceeding one to every square mile, and until this desideratum be supplied, which it cannot for many years, the expectation of a territorial revenue or of any thing calculated to meet the very heavy expence of the present civil and military establishments must be decidedly and completely delusive. The territory is admirably adapted for European colonization, possessing abundance of unoccupied and improveable land and the existing inhabitants having no prejudices, peculiar rights or feelings against assimilating with

Europeans. This object of retaining the territory could be effectually accomplished under the direct management only of the Crown. As far as the interests of the East India Company are concerned, every useful purpose might be attained by retaining possession of a small portion only of the territory to serve as a commercial post and entrepôt for our trade with the neighbouring Siamese and Burmese inhabitants and as a port of refit and security for our shipping in time of war, or when meeting with disaster in the Bay of Bengal. It is generally declared to the Eastward that no vessel in distress can ever venture to bear up for the Bay of Martaban. The Town of Tavoy is too inconveniently situated for shipping, but a post might certainly be formed closer to the mouth of the river, or near Crale Island, and the chief establishments removed to it. Nothing can be more safe and commodious than the harbour of Mergui, although in many situations a vessel in distress could not venture to bear up for that port also, in consequence of the narrowness of the channels between the islands lying off that Coast, and the great depth and frequency of calms close to them. St. Mathew's Island is more in the track of shipping and more easily approached, and a small post there would best answer the object of a port of refit to ships in distress, but for the purpose of renewing and establishing a profitable and extensive trade with the Siamese, and of excluding a foreign European Enemy from again finding in this quarter the means of annoying the general commerce of India, a position at Mergui or Tavoy must be best adapted. The island of Negrais might be made to serve as the entrepôt to the trade with the Burmese, if Arracan or Cheduba be not considered fully sufficient. The whole of the rest of this ceded territory could be restored to Ava or ceded to Siam upon the conditions before mentioned. The Siamese will no doubt prove the most peaceable neighbours, for it will be long difficult for the Burmese

to entertain friendly feelings towards any Settlements that we may make on any territory conquered from them. Too much cannot be said in favor of a nautical survey being immediately ordered of the whole of the Coast and Islands connected with the ceded territory.

It is impossible to form an adequate notion of the inveterate hatred and hostility cherished by the Siamese against their Burmese neighbours. They will not allow themselves to suppose the possibility even of any peace subsisting between the two nations. Most of the Siamese consider the former successes of Ava over Siam as matters of history, and profess to entertain no dread of the Burmese. But under a vapouring and boasting exterior we observed a real apprehension of the power of Ava, whose population appears to be far superior to that of Siam in every military quality and whose armies, if they had not to carry their own provisions over the mountainous waste of the borders, would have crossed it much oftener than they have done. It forms part of the established laws of Siam to admit of no Burmese into their territories, and to hold no friendly intercourse with them. The Siamese Ministers ridiculed the idea of our making peace with such a treacherous and perfidious race, and their plan of warfare in our circumstances would have been to have destroyed Umerapoora and every place above Prome and Toongho, and to have fallen back on those towns, laying waste the whole country between them and the capital of Ava. Their reply to the first communication which we made to them of the close of the war, furnishes curious proof of their opinions regarding the Burmese character, and of the temper with which they regarded the clause in our treaty, admitting them to the benefits of peace. They subsequently declined to accept of those benefits and plainly showed that they considered the treaty as of no value whatever. They seemed also to consider that the time had arrived for them to retaliate on the Burm-

ese and that the reduction of the power and means of Ava in the late contest with us would afford the Siamese an opportunity for a successful attack upon some part of the Burmese dominions. But the Burmese have probably of late made a great advance in Military tactics, and they may have greater inclination and ability than ever to find their way to Bangkok. In proportion as the terms of our treaty press upon them in the north and west they will try to move towards the south and west. We learnt at Bangkok that since the close of the war, a party of Siamese had entered the Burmese territories near Zittaun from the direction of Laos to the north east and brought away several Burmese to Siam, and it becomes therefore necessary for the British Government to decide immediately whether it will suit its policy to commit itself so much as the 10th article of the treaty with Ava appears to do, to interference in the disputes between these two nations. Upon the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, we soon discovered that to propose an exchange only of the Siamese Prisoners at Mergui and in other parts of Ava for the Burmese inhabitants carried away from our conquests, would be fully nugatory. The Court would not believe that we should return the Siamese, and at any rate it considered the Burmese captives of much greater value than its own lazy subjects. Almost all public works and laborious services are executed at Bangkok by the Burmese prisoners and they receive so small a subsistence from Government that they are permitted to levy Contributions upon the inhabitants of the Country, who attend the bazars in boats and ply the river with vegetables, fruit and other articles of food. We repeatedly saw two or three Burmese prisoners in a boat chasing and plundering the boat of some old Siamese woman. The inhabitants who had been carried away from our conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim we found distributed at Bangkok among all the public officers, who were deriving the benefit

of their services at scarcely any expense and who had all an immediate interest in opposing our wishes for the release of these poor creatures. An allowance of half a chupa of paddy a day, without any clothing or habitation, was granted to them, while they were employed in the most servile and laborious occupations, and were suffering much from the ravages of small pox and cholera morbus. A great portion of them consisted of women and children, and as they had been brought to the Capital at an inclement season and over the most difficult roads, some of them having been first taken up from near Martaban to Chung-mai, and thence brought down, a great mortality had naturally occurred amongst them. At least one half of them had died. It was impossible that we could remain indifferent to such inhumanity, and we made the strongest appeal to the King, Wangna, Kalahom, Phra Khlang and every other officer whom we saw. Our applications were at first met with vague and unsatisfactory declarations that these prisoners should be sent back as soon as the Court was convinced of our ability to retain our conquests, that His Majesty had not put irons on them, and that they were at liberty to return if they desired it. We answered that we thought it was more probable the Burmese troops would return to Bangkok than to our conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim, and we pointed out the absurdity of telling poor men who were several hundred miles from their homes, that they might return, destitute as they must be of all means of returning and travelling such a distance. As soon as we learnt that our representations had made an impression on the superior understanding of the King, and that the Ministers and subordinate officers only were opposing us, we adopted a higher tone and used more strong and decisive language, pointing out the necessity which would exist for the British Government avenging the cruelties committed on its Burmese subjects, and threatening to quit

the Country if they were not immediately sent back. This forced the Ministers at length to acquiesce, but they did it with a very bad grace, sending at once to the premises occupied by the Mission upwards of 500 of the men, women and children whom the Phya Ch'homphon had seized. No arrangements were made for supplying them with food or clothing, and they had no shelter while the thermometer was so low as 58°, and many of them were suffering from Cholera Morbus and small pox. To one of our remonstrances against such cruelties the Ministers coolly replied, that as these people were enemies the Siamese could not feel any compassion for their sufferings, but we succeeded at length in forcing the Court to supply us with provisions and junks for the conveyance of these poor creatures to Bengnarom, whence in the month of March, 547 men, women and children were taken across the country to Mergui, under charge of one of our interpreters. An order was sent at the same time to Phya Kray at Ch'homphon to release and send to Mergui another party of 237, which had been detained at the former place.

The Ministers repeatedly declared that no other prisoners remained, but in the month of May we discovered and forced them to acknowledge the party of Peguers which Maha Yotha had brought away from the vicinity of Martaban, and several of which from meeting with old acquaintances among the Pegue emigrants in Siam, did not certainly experience so harsh a treatment as the Burmese prisoners had done, although they were equally anxious to escape from that state of slavery in which they were kept. To effect their release the Mission had to go through the same vexatious discussions as on the former occasion, before the Siamese Court was prevailed upon in the latter end of June to forward in the same manner to Mergui, another party of 640 men, women and children under charge of another of our interpreters.

The Mission subsequently effected the release of 8 more of these poor wretches, and of 5 native Christians, whom a party of Siamese had seized five years ago on the Coast of Tavoy; and these prisoners were brought away from Siam in the Mission Brig.

It is one of the established laws of Siam, as of China, for none of its inhabitants to quit the country, and this law is applied in a great measure to all natives of other countries who may visit Siam. We received numerous applications from *Chuliahs* and natives of Hindoostan, as well as from Malays for our interference to enable them to quit the country. The Siamese Government seems at all times to dread any diminution of its population, and it was contrary to its established policy, as well as adverse to the personal interests of the ministers to permit the removal of the Burmese captives. The Letters from the Phra Khlang and other Ministers to our officers declaring that these Burmese were well treated and at liberty to return home, were completely delusive, and we were told in plain terms that they would never have been released but for the arrival of the Mission. Whatever therefore may be the final decision of our superiors respecting the exertions of the late Mission to Siam, every member of it will feel great and lasting satisfaction that he was instrumental in rescuing upwards of 1400 of his fellow creatures from a most intolerable slavery. It may be mentioned here that the Mission ascertained at Bangkok that Chinese Junks and other native vessels are in the habit of clandestinely carrying away Malays from our different settlements to the Eastward, and selling them for slaves in Siam.

The Mission had an opportunity of again seeing the released Burmese captives at Mergui, where they crowded round the members of the Mission with presents and tokens of gratitude in the most pleasing and gratifying manner. No instance had ever before

occurred of the return of captives from Siam and the arrival of these prisoners at Mergui was as astonishing and embarrassing as the return to life of the dead. The British Authorities there were required to decide upon the claims of husbands for their wives, masters for their slaves, and owners for their lands and other property, that had all undergone alienation according to ancient custom, upon the abduction of the prisoners by the Siamese. The small party of Siamese which Major Frith had detained were released the moment these Burmese prisoners arrived at Mergui. The conduct of the inhabitants of Mergui towards these Siamese prisoners formed a striking contrast to that their townsmen received in Siam. They repeatedly requested the permission of the British Authorities at Mergui to be allowed to deliver to the Siamese in confinement supplies of fruit, clothing and other articles, which they voluntarily brought to promote the comfort of people who, they said, although enemies were in adversity. It is unpleasant to relate that the Mission did not see or hear of a single instance of a Siamese showing kindness or even commiseration towards a Burmese prisoner at Bangkok.

The Mission learnt at Tavoy and Mergui, that the intelligence of its arrival at Bangkok had been hailed with the utmost satisfaction by the inhabitants of those provinces, and that it had immediately dissipated the alarm and unquietude under which the Burmese had been living for several months, in hourly expectation of incursions or attack on the part of their Siamese neighbours. In conclusion we hope we may be permitted to cite the following extract from a private letter addressed to the Envoy at Bangkok by an officer of high rank after visiting the Coast of Tenasserim. "It is well you went to Bangkok. If you had not been there to dandle and sing to those grown up babies, they would have been throwing

some of their playthings at our heads, and we must have been obliged to give them a thumping or put them in a corner. In plain words, your being there has prevented much misunderstanding, and kept the Siamese from giving way to the temptations held out by our reduced means of defence from Martaban to Mergui."

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain
late Envoy to the Court
of Siam.

Fort William
Decr. 2d. 1826.

[An Extract of the foregoing report appears in *Home Series, Miscellaneous*, vol. 675, to which is added the following (endorsed Fort William, Secret Dept., 6th July 1827):—]

Since writing the above the overthrow of the Tallien insurrection against the Burmese Government, and the immigration into our territory South and East of the Saluen River of nearly 20,000 Peguers must now render it impossible for the British Government to restore the ceded territory to Ava, and to deliver the large body of refugees to the vengeance of the Burmese. Many of these Peguers, with their principal, the Syrian Chief, here it is understood, applied to be allowed to settle near the "Three Pagodas" on the frontiers of Siam, whence they, no doubt, hope to open an intercourse with their numerous brethren in that kingdom. This event, if we retain the territory, may soon become the cause of some * understanding between ourselves and the Siamese who would be much dissatisfied with losing any of their Pegu subjects. But if we decide against retaining the whole of the ceded territory, the arrival of so large a body of Peguers may assist us much in making some general arrangement with the Siamese and delivering a portion of the territory to them in exchange for the objects required from them. The only dfficulty which may occur in our negotiation with the Siamese is, that we shall be bound to insist upon one condition, that a free passage be afforded to all inhabitants who may desire to quit the territory upon its cession to the Siamese. The Siamese Ministers as they value the people more than the territory will be unwilling to accede to this condition from an apprehension that most of the inhabitants may follow us.

* ? misunderstanding.

During another visit to Tavoy Captain Burney has had an opportunity of extending his enquiries and

observations respecting the ceded territory and he is compelled to confess, that its possession will never be made profitable with the present race of inhabitants. This indigenous race has to be taught industry, desire of gain, value of acquisition, and in short every thing that can make them useful or productive labourers. They are as averse as the Malays to labour, and like the Malays they are content with cultivating a little paddy for their subistence and as one or two days' labour can supply them with the scanty means of subsistence they require for eight or ten days, they will work only for that short period. The price of labour is kept up by the indolence and apathy of the people and two rupees a day have been repeatedly offered without effect for the services of common labourers. As long as the price of labour continues at this exorbitant rate, the plans proposed by speculative Europeans, to take grants of land and cultivate indigo, cotton and other products, can never succeed. An exotic race of Chulias and Chinese must be introduced, and how long and expensive such a process is, may be seen in the instance of Penang, where we have not yet succeeded in teaching the Malay population habits of industry and a desire of bettering their condition.

The Supreme Government had therefore better determine at once upon delivering this ceded territory to the Siamese, and retaining with the Sovereignty of all the islands, one small but well fortified post only, for the purposes of a commercial entrepôt, and a port where our vessels may refit when in distress, and whence we may prevent in case of another European war, any other power from seeking a settlement or place of shelter for its privateers on this Eastern side of the Bay of Bengal.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 342.

No. 2 of No 11.

Extracts from H. Burney's Report respecting the commerce of Siam.

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It may be useful to detail here the information and opinions collected and formed by the late Mission respecting the general commerce of Siam.

The trade with China is the most extensive as well as the most ancient part of the foreign commerce of Bangkok. From the earliest time a very close connection has subsisted between Siam and the Celestial Empire and the former has always endeavoured to maintain and preserve this connection by periodical embassies to the latter. These Embassies, even when believed by early European voyagers to be sent to do homage and to acknowledge the supremacy of China, were considered by them as they now really are, intended only to secure uninterrupted liberty of trade; and this official communication is now confined to an annual Mission to Canton, and a triennial one to Pekin bearing presents consisting of small supplies of each description of the produce of Siam. Such presents were lately returned to the Governor General and pointed out to the Mission as the greatest compliment which the King of Siam could pay to His Lordship. A very large portion of the population of Siam are Chinese and their descendants, the number of whom settled at Bangkok was declared to the Mission to be almost equal to that of the rest of the inhabitants, while from 2 to 3000 new settlers are annually arriving from China. Many of the Chinese possess Siamese titles, but their influence in the state is by no means so considerable as might have been expected from their number and general intelligence. The manufacturers of sugar and other articles, the Junk builders and navigators, and most of the shopkeepers

at Bangkok are Chinese, from whom the Government is said to derive a revenue of one lack Ticals per mensem, by a capitation tax upon every adult resident consisting of a seal or chop to be worn round the wrist, for which 4½ ticals are charged, and which is renewable every three years. Not only the wants of these Chinese, but the wants of the Siamese themselves, who all use Chinese crapes, porcelain, teas and sweetmeats, render an intercourse with China as necessary as it is extensive. Nearly 30,000 Tons of Junks are sent to navigate between Bangkok and China. From 20 to 45 large junks annually arrive from Hainan and from 36 to 50 Junks from Canton, and from Eurin, Mengpo and the other east parts of China between which last and Bangkok the trade is so profitable as to yield at least 300 per cent. In this last trade the King and most of the officers of Siam are engaged, and it is said that large profits are realized even if only one out of two vessels return. Many junks are annually lost, but that [? though] they are easily replaced [it is] to be feared [they can] never succeed in opening so profitable and extensive a channel in Siam as Mr. Crawfurd anticipates. The Chinese Merchants of Bangkok trade also with the Malay Ports to which from 30 to 40 junks are annually sent. During the past year six went to Rhio and the ports in Borneo and Java, and about 26 to Singapore and Penang, but in the year 1824 Mr. Crawfurd reports that 30 junks visited Singapore with Siamese produce to the extent of 4 or 5000 tons, returning with British and India manufactures to the value of nearly 2 Lack 50,000 Dollars. Besides these junks about 30 Malay prows trade between the Malay States and Bangkok, importing gold dust, birds nests, dammer, dragon's blood, tin, rattans, sharks, mews and fins Malay dresses and a coarse species of Aguila wood, and exporting rice, paddy, oil, sugar, salt, iron, iron posts and a little sticklac and Benjamin. His Majesty's ship the only Synore* rigged

* (sic)

vessel belonging to Siam, made an annual voyage to Singapore and the Malay ports with little profit, and she has lately been lost on her return voyage. But the Court of Siam takes little interest in this trade and as a proof of its indifference we may mention that during the whole of the negotiations of the Envoy no attempt was ever made to secure any reciprocal advantage for this trade, or to obtain a pledge even that the very moderate duties and anchorage charges now levied at Singapore, Malacca and Penang upon the junks from Siam should not be increased. This indifference however, under which this trade has increased and prospered has begun to change so far, that during the last two years many new duties have been imposed upon the Chinese junks engaged in it. An additional measurement duty has been imposed upon them, and they have lately been assessed for the purpose even of meeting the expense of conveying stores for the purpose of fortifying the Mouth of the Menam.

* * * * * *

The junks trading with the British Settlements to the East also make their principal profit on their export of Rice, Sugar, oil &c., which their connections in the interior of Siam enable them to procure at very low rates, and they can afford to undersell the English merchants at Bangkok in their import of English and India cottons and other manufactures. But while English vessels may navigate at all seasons, these junks make but one voyage during the year and there is besides no security for the continuance of this native trade, for the Siamese Government as we have already seen, will never hesitate to check and reduce it by additional duties. To talk of its being the interest of the Government not to adopt such a measure is absurd. In fact the imports to Singapore during the past season were by no measure [? means] so great as they were

during the year reported by Mr. Crawfurd in 1824. These considerations will prove the advantage of the Commercial part of the treaty lately negotiated in refutation of those who are of opinion that the best and most profitable mode of trading with Siam is by means of the junks which now pass between that Kingdom and Singapore. The trade of the Chinese also is under the Prah Khlang, superintended by an Officer in his Department named Phya Ch'hoduk who is of Chinese extraction and is accused of having amassed great wealth by extortion and other improper means.

The trade between Cochin China and Siam employed from 20 to 50 small junks, the principal imports being mats for sails, houses, silk, betlenut, coarse cottons, some times *Shumshoo*, and the exports iron, barks of trees for dyeing and other purposes, hides, rice, paddy &c. Many of the productions of Cambodia, such as Gamboge, cardamuns, silk and silk cloth, aguila wood, skins, ivory &c. are imported to Bangkok by these junks. Much jealousy and distrust subsist between the Government of Siam and Cochin China, principally on account of the possessions of the former in Cambodia, although a mutual diplomatic intercourse is regularly maintained between the Phra Khlang at Paknam. * As this Envoy * brought only one shipwrecking Siamese, and as he used repeated and the most urgent application to be allowed to visit the Capital, the general opinion at Bangkok was that the real design of the Embassy was to ascertain the object of the British Mission. The number of Cochin Chinese settled at Bangkok is said to amount only to 300.

* sic

Almost all the most valuable exports of Siam Benjamin, cotton, teak, copper, peltry, stick lac, lead, &c. are the products of Laos, a great portion of which is now annexed to the Kingdom of Siam. But it is surprizing to find how little is really known at Bangkok

respecting the country and people of Laos. Only 1500 of that nation are said to be recognised as a distinct portion of the production* of Chinese. They are said to prefer their own manufactures to English Broad Cloth, which are at present said to be too dear for their consumption.

* (sic) ? proportion of the population.

The very valuable trade which was formerly conducted between Siam and Japan has ceased entirely. Some of the Chinese Junks occasionally import from the more Eastern parts of China, a few of the productions of Japan, copper, lackered ware and crapes, which last are in great demand among the princes and chief officers of the Court.

No commercial intercourse now exists with Acheen or with Persia and the states of Southern India, with which the King of Siam formerly maintained diplomatic relations.

The trade with Surat is the only portion remaining of the valuable commerce that appears in former time to have existed between Siam and the people of Western India or the Moors. Two small brigs of 200 tons, generally under Nakhodas, alternately visit Bangkok each year from Surat importing Kinkhaubs, spices, chintzes and other coarse cottons, and exporting sugar, ivory, aguila wood, benjamin and gamboge. The conduct of the Siamese officers towards these vessels was most iniquitous. The Prah Khlang and his officers fixed the price of every article of merchandize brought by the Surat traders and took and distributed among themselves whatever portion of the cargoes they pleased for the purpose of retailing the same afterwards at a profit to themselves. The [? revenue] derived by these means by the Phra Khlang's department rendered it a matter of the greatest trouble before the Mission could persuade the Siamese negotiators to extend to these Surat Traders, the benefit of the treaty in which they were at length

included, as sailing under the English flag and being in fact English subjects. Nothing can give a more striking proof of the advantage of the trade of Siam, notwithstanding all the exactions and vexations which attend it, than the case of the Surat traders. The Mission witnessed the distress and extortion experienced in December last by the Nakhoda of the Surat brig, who was almost distracted in the attempt only of *converting payment for his cargo, and who was repeatedly seen crying like a child, yet this very person [came] again this year to pass through the same sufferings. The immediate superintendence of the trade of the Surat Merchants is in the hands of Phya Si-phi-phut and Phya Chula both of whom belong to the department of the Phra Khlang.

* sic.

It may now be useful to give a short sketch of the attempts which each European nation has made to obtain a share in the commerce of Siam.

The Portuguese were the first European nation to establish a communication with Siam, as well as with other parts of India. Immediately after the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese in 1511 Alfonso de Albuquerque received an Embassy from Siam and in return deputed thither Anthony de Miranda to improve commercial relations with the object it is said to build a Fort in any part of this kingdom they would choose. In 1616 the King sent ambassadors to Goa acknowledging the favors received from the Portugueze and offering them the port of Martaban to build a fort and maintain a garrison there and a fleet to cruize on that sea against the King of Dna (Dawe or Tavoy). The Portuguese sent them back with an ambassador from themselves to propose that the two nations should join their forces to subdue the King of Ava, that there should be a free trade between Siam and Malacca, and that the King of Siam should not admit the Dutch into the country. The King replied that the

Portuguese might freely resort to his ports, and be exempt from all duties, and that his subjects should trade at Malacca, that the reason they had not done it of late was the ill usage they found there, that he had admitted the English, Dutch and Malays into his ports for the great respect they showed him and the esteem he had for them. That he had assisted the Portuguese against the Hollanders; that he was no ways concerned for the harm those of Malacca had done the Queen of Patani, because she was a mad woman, but she being now dead he had placed one of more sense there and desired there might be free trade with her as well as with Siam; that the goods of such Portuguese as died in his dominions should go to their heirs, and that he had ordered all Portuguese who committed any crime should be tried at this Court, to prevent any wrong being done them by the prejudice of magistrates. The King sent back with the Portuguese Envoy two Siamese to go as Ambassadors to Spain. The privilege then granted by the King of Siam to all vessels visiting Siam from Malacca to be exempt from duty continued apparently down to a very late date. In 1621 the King of Siam sent another Embassy to Goa desiring some Franciscans would come to preach in his dominions when one was sent, and his Majesty is said to have built a church for him at his own expense. In 1624 a difference arose between the Siamese and Portuguese, in consequence of the latter having attacked and taken possession of a Dutch frigate lying in the Menam river, which vessel the King of Siam made the Portugueze restore and they as well as the Spaniards from Manilla for some years afterwards harassed the Siamese trade with China. In 1684 the King of Portugal having sent an Envoy to Siam to renew the ancient alliance, the King of Siam deputed a Mission to Portugal via Goa, and the account of the shipwreck and the sufferings of Occun Chamnam and the other Siamese Ambassadors off the Cape of

Good Hope may be seen in the interesting relation translated and published by Tachard in his Second Voyage au Royaume de Siam, p. 309 et seq. During the period of the French Embassies in 1685 and 1688, of Kempfer's visit in 1689, and of Captain Hamilton's visit in 1719, the Portuguese do not appear to have cultivated much commercial intercourse with Siam although the French notice a Portuguese Factory at Yothia. But in the year 1780, the Queen of Portugal deputed a Mission to Siam via Goa for the purpose of renewing the ancient alliance, to which end assistance of 5000 men and of a supply of arms was afforded against the Burmese. The King of Siam declined the offer of auxiliary troops, but requested a supply of arms, and offered the Portuguese permission to establish a factory and Consul at Yothia. We heard at Bangkok a curious anecdote respecting the Portuguese Envoy sent at this time. He took offence at some part of the conduct of the Court of Siam, and appealed against it to the poor Native Christians resident at Yothia, among whom he circulated an address. Of course, the moment this proceeding came to the knowledge of the Court the Envoy was placed in confinement. At this time and down to a late date the Portugueze from Macao carried.* In 1816 Mr. Carlos de Silveira, a native of the Brazils settled at Macao, having occasion to make a trading voyage to Siam, finding the Court well disposed to enter into nearer relations with the Portuguese, represented the matter on his return to the then Viceroy of Goa, who deputed him in 1818 to take up the offer made by the King of Siam in 1781, and to obtain the acquiescence of the Siamese Court to a treaty of friendship and commerce, a draft of which consisting of 23 articles, was drawn out and given to him by the Viceroy. Although this Instrument was drawn out with all the formality and minuteness used in a Treaty of Alliance between two European States, Mr. Silveira obtained the acquiescence of the Siamese Court to the

* (sic)—Some words seem to be omitted here.

greatest part of it. The principal articles were, that the Portuguese vessels visiting Bangkok was not a sufficient object for maintaining a Factory and Consul there;* they directed him to remove the escort of troops, consider his appointment of Consul abrogated and apply to Macao for payment of his salary and other charges. Mr. Silveira removed his escort to Macao in a small brig which happened then to be bound for that port, but remonstrated against such a summary mode of proceeding with regard to himself, and he has subsequently made many fruitless appeals to the restored Government at Goa, in order to induce it to transmit to him the means of defraying his charge and leaving the country in a suitable manner. Mr. Silveira's situation is at present so peculiar a one, that he has been induced to apply to the late Mission to submit his case to the Government of British India. The Siamese, as was said before, considers all Christian nations of the same rank and caste, and it is the policy of every European Government, but particularly of that which is likely to have most intercourse in future with Siam, to remove the unfavorable example of European diplomacy which is daily to be seen at Bangkok in the conduct of the Portuguese Government towards Mr. Silveira, who has been left poor and destitute in a place to which he had been deputed as a public character with all honor and distinction. Indeed, the late Mission experienced some difficulties which would never have arisen but for this conduct of the Government of Goa to their Consul. The Siamese Negotiators hesitated much to put any faith in the declaration and public acts of the Envoy, fearing that his own Government might not acknowledge or ratify them and no argument could induce the Ministers to deliver to the Envoy a Copy of the Treaty with the King of Siam's seal, declaring that they could not incur the risk of exposing His Majesty to the insult, which would follow the Governor General's declining to ratify an Instrument having the Royal

* Sic.—There seems to be an omission here.

Seal. This was the cause of the arrangement proposing that the ratifications of the Treaty shall be exchanged at Queda.

The situation of the Portuguese Consul and the manner in which the Court of Siam treats him, early convinced the late Mission of the impossibility of endeavouring to establish a British Factory and Consul at Bangkok. Mr. Crawfurd cites an instance of Mr. Silveira having been confined and threatened by the Siamese authorities, and the want of respect and proper consideration which they appeared on all occasions to show to that Gentleman as well as sometimes to our own Envoy, satisfied the Mission that even if this object of a Bangkok factory could be accomplished, the measure would inevitably bring on a war between the two Governments in less than six months. The Siamese Court itself seemed fully aware that the British Mission received the most useful cordial assistance on every occasion from Mr. Silveira, to whom every Member of the Mission is indebted for many acts of kindness and the most friendly and gentlemanly attentions.

Mr. Silveira has received from the Siamese Government the inferior title of Luang. No Portuguese vessel has visited Siam during the last six years, but the Siamese Ministers declared that as many of the Portuguese have fought with the Siamese against their enemies, and many descendants of Portuguese are now serving the King of Siam in the Army and other Departments that nation, as well as Chinese, possess strong claims to be favoured in Siam over every other foreign people.

Besides Mr. Silveira and his secretary Mr. Baptiste, the only European Portugueze now residing at Bangkok is Mr. Joachim Lendia, who has been several years practising physic among the native Christians. He is too poor and inoffensive to attract the notice of the

Siamese authorities, and he avoids as much as possible communication with any of them. Of the Native Christians there are about 1000 or 1200 Souls at Bangkok, divided into four different Churches, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Conceptio, or Campang Cambodia, St. Rozario and St. Assencio. Sta Cruz is the largest and at the head of it are Joze Piedada, the Port Captain, and Sebastian his deputy. They both understand Latin and speak a jargon of that language, and having been to Macao and seen other places besides Siam, they are better informed than most of their brethren. Piedada whose Siamese title is Luang Surasakhon is generally employed by the Phra Khlang and the Court as the principal interpreter in their communications with Europeans and Americans and were it not for an unfortunate propensity for liquor he would be the most respectable Native Christian at Bangkok. The Mission found him extremely useful, always good humoured and ready to oblige or to give information as far as his fear of the Siamese authorities did not prevent him. He had the great merit also of not pretending to know more than what he really did respecting the views and proceedings of his Masters. The Mission found Sebastian, styled by the Siamese Luang Capitan phanit, honest and inoffensive but extremely timid and rather inclined to exaggerate difficulties. He also is in constant attendance at the Phra Khlang's office as an interpreter. Besides these, most of the Linguists live at Sta. Cruz. Augustine, Ragmundi Domingo Jun. &c. who are those sent down to the bar to meet European or American vessels, are in attendance on the Commanders during their stay in the Country, but they possess few means of rendering themselves useful to a stranger, and live in hourly apprehension of offending their Siamese masters. Some of the Native Christians of Sta. Cruz practice a profession which is generally unknown to the Siamese, that of washermen and others can make themselves useful as Bazar men or purveyors to strangers.

The Mission found Augustine Machado and his wife Manica very serviceable in this last occupation.

The obstensible head of the village of Sta. Conception is Don Miguel or Phya Wiset Song Khram, who is the only Native Christian with so high a Siamese title, but whose age and imbecility give him little consideration. He and some other Native Christian of this village are employed the S. of France of the name of Esprit Joseph Marie Florent.* He has been about 39 years in the country and although he is a remarkably lively old gentleman of the old French school, he lives in very great seclusion and in hourly anxiety not to give offence to the Siamese Authorities. He is served and treated by the Native Christians with all the forms of Siamese reverence shown by them to a Siamese Chief. He is seldom noticed by their Court and his episcopal duties, as far as improving his flock and rendering it superior in character and manners to the Siamese, seem to be much confined by his apprehension of offending the Court. It cannot be concealed that the Native Christians of Bangkok are by no means more remarkable for manhood, reverence for truth, or love of cleanliness, than what Captain Hamilton found their ancestors in 1719.

* Some words seem to be omitted here.

The first intercourse which France opened with Siam was in 1662 when the Bishops nominated by the See of Rome arrived at Yothia. These Bishops being refused a direct passage by the Dutch in their vessels were obliged to proceed by a tedious and circuitous overland route through Persia, the Coast of Coromandel and Tenasserim to Siam. In 1678 the Bishop of Heliopolis returned to Siam with credentials as Ambassador from the King of France and shortly after a Siamese Embassy, which appears to have been lost, was deputed to France. In 1683 another Siamese Mission was deputed, which led to the French Embassies under M. Chaumont in 1685 and Messrs.

Loubère and Ceberet in 1687, the principal object of which, a most unfounded expectation of converting Chao Narayana, King of Siam, to Christianity, is well known. The French succeeded in obtaining possession of Bangkok and Mergui, but the differences which shortly after arose between M. de Farges party and the Siamese, and the manner in which the whole of the French were finally expelled by Petracha in 1689 are also well known. Siamese Envoys were sent to Europe with both the French Missions and in 1690/1 M. Tachard by a third visit from Europe to Siam via Mergui where he landed with some of the Siamese Envoys appears to have restored the French Church at Siam. But although the French subsequently possessed a factory at Mergui, their influence in the kingdom was never regained, and it is considered by the Siamese of the present day as a mere fable of Europeans. The Bishop of Siam is now the only Frenchman in the King of Siam's dominions. The French factory at Mergui existed so lately as the year 1784, when it was described as the means of enabling that nation to obtain the productions of Pegu and Siam, besides affording convenient shelter for its privateers in time of war. We ought to read at the same time with the accounts of the French Ambassadors the representation which Count Forbin gives of the character and proceedings of the Siamese towards,* after the departure of M. Chaumont. M. Loubère's description of the customs, diet, religion and manners of the Siamese is strikingly just and correct to this day, but his account of the general appearance of the country and character of the people is far too highly coloured, and the members of the Mission repeatedly asked themselves whether they could be the same people and country as those seen by M. Loubère. The Court and the arrangement of the Government are any thing but magnificent or well regulated while the statement that the fidelity of the common people is inviolable in all sorts of traffic, that in the bazars

* Sic. ? him

the seller counts not the money which he receives, nor the buyer the commodity which he buys by the tale, is egregiously erroneous. Every attempt is made by the Siamese to deceive and defraud, and the foreign trader in particular cannot be too cautious in examining the quality and quantity of his purchase, and the description of the money which he receives. The ticals current although all of nearly equal weight, have 10 or 12 different impressions. Each sovereign puts his own mark on the money he coins, without calling in that of his predecessor. The China King Phya Taks is a rude representation of a fort, the late king's that of a man with extended [? arms] and legs and the present king's that of his palace. The inhabitants are most capricious with respect to the Ticals they will take, some rejecting what others readily receive, and notwithstanding the very severe punishment which attends the discovery of forgery or uttering of base coin, a large portion of the current ticals is copper or tin. As proofs of the extent to which the currency is debased we may mention that at least 15 per cent of the money brought for the table of the Envoy directly from King's treasury was base, and the King's principal physician assured the Mission that his salary was 8 ticals per annum, paid by the Treasurer, with an engagement that 2 out of the 8 shall be received in bad coin.

[Khrut]

The first intercourse opened by the Dutch with Siam appears to have been about the year 1604, when Admiral Warwijk learning at Patani from Siam that their king was accustomed to depute an annual Mission to the Emperor of China to do homage, and that the Siamese ambassadors were furnished with this monarch's Seal* Arms to pass their junks and trade into the interior of China, conceived a plan of opening a trade and intercourse by this means between the Dutch and Chinese. The Admiral sent a Dutch Agent Specx with letters and presents to the King of Siam,

* sic

requesting His Majesty to permit this Agent to proceed to China in the train of the Siamese Mission. When he was recalled he returned to Java with some Siamese Envoys who were afterwards conveyed to Europe to Prince Maurice and during whose passage thither they appear to have been plundered of some precious stones under a very unproble* pretext. In 1613 General Brouwer established some commercial relations with Siam on his passage to Japan, and in 1634 whilst he was Governor General of Java, Joost Schouten built an elegant and spacious factory and store houses at Siam, and this establishment was said for some time to be the most splendid the Dutch possessed in India. In 1624 a Dutch frigate was attacked in the Menam river by the Portuguese, who were however made to restore it by the King of Siam. The Dutch afterwards assisted the Siamese against Portuguese and Spaniards of Manilla. About the year 1639 they sent six ships to punish the people of Patani on account of the King of Siam. About the year 1662 the Dutch are described in one account to have had so large a commercial intercourse with Siam as to load 40 ships there annually, but in 1664 they quarrelled with the King of Siam and removed for a time their factories from both Ligor and Siam. In the time of M. Loubère in 1687 the Dutch appear to have entered into a regular treaty with the King of Siam for the whole of the skins produced in his Kingdom requiring the same for their Japan trade, although only 2 or 3 Dutch barks then visited Siam annually. The Dutch vessels trading with Japan generally touched at Siam and in 1689 M. Kaempfer visited Siam and sold as slaves.* He found the Court not only deaf to all his applications for the release of these unfortunates, but so irritable whenever he pressed the subject that on the last occasion of his paying a visit to the present King, then Prince Krom Chet, he took a loaded pistol in his pocket in view to be prepared to resent any personal indignity that might be offered to him, when he again

* sic ? improbable

[Something omitted!]

demanded a release of the Javanese, without whom however he was at last obliged to quit the country. Since that date the King of Siam's ship having been obliged to put into Mint was charged, it is said at Bangkok, with extraordinary duties by the Netherlands Government at Banca, amounting to a sum of 2000 Dollars.* Some commuication has also lately passed, but through native agents of no character, between Java and Siam, in consequence of a small brig belonging to some of the Siamese Officers having been carried off or declared* by the crew at one of the ports in Borneo.

* Most probably the Commander of the King's ship found this a convenient mode of accounting for a sum of money which had been otherwise applied.

* sic.

Little communication appears to have passed between Siam and the Spaniards, excepting during the time the crowns of Portugal and Spain were joined, and exertions were made to obstruct the rising commerce of the Dutch in Siam, a purpose which brought the Spaniards into collision with the Siamese. In 1629 a Mission was sent from Siam to Manilla claiming redress for the ravages committed by the Spaniards in the Port of Siam and for the seizure of the ambassador of that Country proceeding to China. In 1717 it appears a Mission was sent from Manilla to Siam proposing to cultivate friendly and commercial relations with that Country and applying for liberty to settle a factory, which was granted, but prevented from being carried into execution by the misconduct of the Spaniards in the mean time to a Siamese Vessel that happened to touch at Manilla.

The Americans have recently opened a commercial intercourse with Siam. They bring to Bangkok no other cargo than Muskets, gun powder, brimstone and Spanish dollars which are extremely acceptable to the Siamese and export only sugar, with which they can be readily supplied, the trade of the Americans being thus much more simply and quickly conducted than that of English Merchants, who require so long a

period to dispose of their large and various imports of cottons and other merchandize, and to procure other returns if possible. Sugar is the trade, beyond question, which the Siamese Court is most desirous of seeing increase. In the year 1818 a Captain Hale visited Bangkok with an American vessel and engaged to return with a cargo of muskets, an engagement which he fulfilled, and which obtained for him the Siamese title of Luang, and some offer it is said, to the American Government to establish a factory at Bangkok. Several American vessels incited by the success of Captain Hale's speculation, afterwards visited Bangkok, but they suffered much by the extortion of the Phra Khlang, who fined an American vessel nearly 2000 Dollars for a very trifling damage done to a Junk in the Siamese Officers* in America, and preventing any other of their countrymen from visiting Bangkok. The Mission is bound however to acknowledge an act of gentlemanly courtesy and very obliging attention performed by Captain Coffin of the Liverpool Packet, who took charge of the Envoy's dispatches, and deviated from his route to land them at Singapore.

* sic. Something seems to be omitted here.

The Mission would recommend any British Merchants desirous of trading with Siam to make the first voyage there with Spanish Dollars only. He will find himself much more his own master at Bangkok, and much better able to ascertain the nature and objects of the commerce of the Country and the character of those who superintend it.

We shall now proceed to notice the steps taken by our own nation to open a profitable commercial intercourse with the Kingdom of Siam. Captain Middleton settled the first English factory in Siam in 1610. It was subsequently withdrawn, and replaced two or three times until the year 1686, when some misunderstanding took place between the two nations, the cause of which misunderstanding, as well as the

subsequent proceedings of the Government of Fort St. George, are differently explained by Captains Hamilton and Dalrymple from the Madras records. In the year 1684 Captain Hamilton relates that the Siamese Envoys, sent to France visited London and there concluded a Commercial treaty with our nation. In the year 1685 M. Chaumont found an English factory in Siam, the Chief of which appears to have conformed to the custom of the country, prostrating himself and taking off his shoes before the King of Siam. In 1687 the Government of Fort St. George appears to have led to the massacre of some English settled at Mergui, and to the destruction of the influence which many of them possessed in the territories of the King of Siam. Before that fatal time Hamilton says the English were so beloved and favored at the Court of Siam that they had places of trust conferred upon them, in both the civil and military branches of the Government. In 1705 the Governor of Fort St. George addressed the King of Siam to renew a commercial intercourse, and in 1712 the King of Siam invited the English to make a Settlement in Siam on the same [terms] as had been conceded to the Dutch. But Captain Hamilton declares that in 1718 a Mr. Collet, a Governor of Fort St. George sent an agent to annul the treaty of London, and to make a new one detrimental to all British Subjects except those employed by that Governor. This account would show that the vexatious system and heavy rate of duties which have attended the trade of British Subjects in Siam down to the present date were no more than what one of our own authorities had introduced, for the revised treaty stipulated, Hamilton says, that all British subjects that had not Collett's letter should* their ship, which came to about £500 for a ship of 300 tons, to sell their cargoes to whom they pleased, but the money to have been expended with respect to the advantage of the trade of that Kingdom. It was

* sic. Something evidently omitted.

said that little broad cloth was consumed by Siam and that the sale of that commodity depended on China and Japan. But if the statement of the Dutch, lading forty ships yearly at one time in Siam, be true, no doubt can be entertained of the value of this trade and of its being equal, if under [? unmolested] and left to full and free operation, to employ annually more than 4 or 5 ships of moderate size. The Dutch conducted so extensive a trade with Siam whilst there existed a general liberty of commerce, which had invited to Siam a great multitude of strangers of different nations, but the father of Chao Naraya[na] appears to have introduced the mischievous system of monopolizing the trade and becoming the principal merchant of the country, a system by which a few years after, in Loubère's time, the Dutch trade was reduced to 2 or 3 barks, and the richest foreigners, particularly the Moors, forced to retire elsewhere.

Before the occupation of Prince of Wales Island in 1786 Mr. Light and several other Country Traders made voyages to Siam, and that gentleman received from the Siamese Government the title of Phya. The Governor of that island had often suggested to [the] Supreme Government the advantage of opening a friendly intercourse with Siam, a measure which was not adopted until the year 1821 when Mr. Crawfurd was deputed at Bangkok as agent from the Most Noble the Governor General. The knowledge which that gentleman acquired of the state of parties at Siam, of the disposition of the Court and of the habits and customs of the people enabled him not only in his situation of Resident at Singapore to improve several favorable opportunities for facilitating and extending the trade of British subjects with Siam, but to afford to the late Mission such advice and information as materially facilitated its duties. In the year 1823 Mr. Gillies of the firm of Messrs. Morgan Hunter & Co. of of Singapore proceeded to Bangkok and was soon after

followed by two other gentlemen of the same House, Mr. Robert Hunter and Mr. J. Mallock, who obtained the permission of the Phra Khlang to remain at the capital, where the Mission found them in a house belonging to the Ministers and close to his own residence. These Gentlemen had succeeded in a surprising degree in disarming the jealousy of the Siamese officers and in conciliating the good will of the Phra Khlang and of every class of inhabitants, and the Mission received from both of them on every occasion the most cordial and friendly assistance and co-operation. Indeed were it not for what these gentlemen communicated without reserve or hesitation of their experience of the character of the Siamese officers, of the objects and course of the trade, of the nature of the difficulties imposed upon it, and of the means of overcoming them, the Mission by these gentlemen with the liberality and politeness of English merchants.

There seems to be an omission here.

Any merchant visiting Siam ought to live on board ship and keep a shop there instead of taking a house on shore. He must have a convenient ladder by the gangway for people to get easily on board, and he must take great care to behave extremely civilly to all the Chinese and Siamese who may visit him, and not appear offended with them whenever they go away without purchasing, which they may frequently do. If they are slighted or insulted there is little chance of their returning or any of their friends coming to purchase any thing. Anchor rather above or below the Phra Khlang's house, and as near to the opposite shore as possible. All the shopkeepers have a very great aversion to be seen purchasing from Europeans where they may be seen by the Phra Khlang or his petty officers, and this notwithstanding a general liberty to do so may have been granted. Never give the Phra Khlang or any other persons the most distant idea of the description of goods you want to purchase, which will

prevent them from raising the price. Continue purchasing quietly whenever you find any thing which suits you. There are many Native Christians who go on board without the least intention of purchasing, merely to get presents; and very often they do much mischief by not only informing the Phra Khlang of whatever they see, but by preventing the natives from purchasing. They can never be of any service, and with the exception of Piedada, Beneditti and Pascoal, they are all so miserably poor that they cannot purchase any thing. Never give credit in Siam unless to the King, Phra Khlang, or great officers, but receive the money, or whatever commodity you barter for when you deliver your property. If it is difficult to sell, it is 10,000 times more so to get the money afterwards. A Copy of the mercantile part of the treaty in Siamese and Chinese would be extremely useful to hang up when the Shop is kept, for the information of the people. There are many people able to purchase a whole case, and therefore it is advisable to sell in cargoes, as well as cases, as may best suit the buyer.

To the above directions the following observations may be added. As far as the people are concerned, there is a good deal of truth in Count Forbins remark to Louis the 14th—"Sire, le royaume de Siam ne produit rien et ne consume rien." Nature spontaneously and the Chinese produce every object of foreign trade in Siam. The Siamese certainly cultivate paddy and orchards, and manufacture some kinds of cloths and silks. But they are content with the abundant supply of rice and fruit with which nature has blessed their country, and they in general prefer their own cotton and silk manufacture to those of Great Britain, not only as being stronger and capable of lasting almost a whole life, but as requiring, in their opinion, no washing, to which operation their clothes are very rarely subjected. The dress of both sexes is so similar,

that it is often difficult to distinguish them. Both wear a cotton or silk (Pha nung) round the waist, brought up between the legs, and fastened behind like a Hindoo's *Dhotee*. The representation of Siamese women in the works of the early European travellers do not exhibit them dressed in this manner and [I] was informed that it was introduced at the time of the Burmese siege of Yothia, in order to deceive the assailants into a belief of a larger body of men being among the besieged. Both sexes also wear a narrow piece of China crape of the dimensions of an English lady's scarf *Pha hom*, Pha Saboric. The men, unless in cold weather keep this scarf round the waist. The women wear it some times like a scarf round the neck and hanging over each bosom very carelessly and sometimes they tie it tightly around or across the bosom. At home most of the lower classes of the women remove the crape and wear no covering above the waist. The prevailing colours of this scarf among the men are black and white, and among the women the lower orders have it generally of black. There is a peculiar pattern for each class of Siamese Officers. The Princes and highest officers wear Surat *Kinkhaubs* or Siamese Gold Cloths on public duty.

There is as yet a very limited demand in Siam for English Broad Cloth (Saklat). Yellow for the King and Priests; Scarlet, Green and particularly double colours, that is scarlet on one side and green or blue on the other, are most in demand. The consumption of English woollens at Bangkok is estimated by Mr. Hunter at about 700 pieces annually. The King, Wangna and Phra Khlang are the principal purchasers.

A taste for English Cottons is however rising in Siam and as within the last year or two the importation has been excessive, the consumption it is to be hoped will extend with the reduced prices. The Chintzes Pha-lai wilah or Pha chhip wilah are worn by

the principal chiefs there and particularly by the women—quite unsaleable what are called Siam dresses. Pha nung wilat also are unsaleable if they have borders at the sides—they should have them at the two ends only. Furniture chintz is of no use in Siam, Cambric and Jaconet Menshies *Pha bai Klooi* small sprigs of gold or silver or plain are admired. Long cloths, as well as plain muslins, are principally bought for the purpose of being made into dresses for the Priests, and dyed yellow. They cannot be of too great a breadth. Shawls India Pha san or English Imitation are used but they should be long as no Siamese will accept of a square one for nothing.

Ordnance *Pün Yai* in great demand and old cannon brings a price far beyond its value. Muskets, Pün Khap Sila, are now not in such great demand as they were 2 or 3 years ago. A Pecul of sugar is the usual price for a musket. Some recent importation disappointed the Siamese, who have since made all muskets offered for sale undergo a proof which scarcely one in ten can stand. They load the piece with * which often of course bursts the barrel in the firing. They now prefer an old musket to 2 or 3 new ones. * ears pierced for rings. Yet they admire jewellery and common Ceylon jewels often find a ready and profitable sale. Good English spectacles are in great demand.

* Some words are omitted here.

Sugar, *Namtan Sai*, is the principal article exported from Siam by European and American vessels, and it has been said to be "the cheapest and as good as any ever seen." The Chinese are the sole manufacturers and the produce may be increased to any amount. The Mission found this article subject to an inland duty of 2 salungs per pecul, which will of course still be levied, and an export duty of 6 salungs per pecul. As the collection of the duty is farmed for 300 catties or 30,400 Ticals (*sic*!) per annum, the net

annual produce of the sugar allowing for the profits and embezzlements of the farmer, the produce may certainly be estimated at double the amount. The ostensible farmer is a poor Chinese named Khun Phithac part of whose contract engages him to deliver supplies of sugar to the King, Wangna and principal officers at lower than the market rate. The real farmers are said to be Krom Meun Soorin, Phya Siphiphut and Tha Phra K, who take as much of the profit of the farm as they can, leaving to the Chinese Khun Phithac to meet in the best way he can the different requisitions made upon him from time to time by the King, Wangna and other officers for supplies of sugar at reduced rates. The extent of such requisition depends upon the number of articles purchased by these personages, and they pay for almost all purchases in sugar. To make up the losses upon such requisitions Khun Phithac and the whole of his department do every thing in their power to deceive and defraud the foreign merchants. No person who has not been at Bangkok can form any conception of the exertions which are made by the Chinese farmer and his Servants to weary out the patience of the foreign merchant, and deceive him as to the quality and quantity of the article, for which the contract may be made, or order given by the King, Wangna &c. in his favor. Day after day the same boats with bad sugar are brought to the vessel and declared to be other boats newly arrived from the sugar districts; and the most impudent and pertinacious attempts are made to induce the Commander of the Foreign Vessel to receive sugar of an inferior quality, or with short weight. Sugar forms the great article of barter from the King to the lowest officer. Almost everything is paid for in Sugar and 1060 Peculs of it were delivered to the Envoy among the returns for the presents taken by him. The following were given to the Envoy as the prices and amount of the four descriptions of sugar.

No. 1 from 7½ to 8 per pecul produce 30,000 exported 20,000
„ 2 „ 6 to 7 Do. Do. Do. } 70,000 Do. 30,000
„ 3 „ 5 to 6 Do. Do. Do. }
„ 4 very brown from 2½ to 3 Ticals Do. Do. 20,000 Do. 20,000

A great portion of the last is conveyed to China, and it appeared to the Mission from its quality and very low price to be likely to answer for exportation to Europe for the distillers or manufacturers.

Nak'honsh'haisi on the Thachin River and Bangplasoi, Petrii and Chantabun on the East Coast of the Gulf of Siam are the principal places of manufacture, and there the article is said to be procurable at much lower prices than at Bangkok. The Mission endeavoured to introduce into the treaty a distinct clause permitting British merchants to proceed themselves to these places to procure their own supplies of sugar, but after much discussion the Siamese Ministers declared, that the terms of the treaty would admit of British Merchants deputing to those districts any Chinese or Siamese subjects to procure their supplies and that no difficulty whatever should be interposed to prevent British Merchants from making such arrangements. Sugar is sold by the Chinese steelyard and pecul, but upon examining the measure carefully, the pecul weight was found to be only 129⅓ instead of 133⅓ lbs.

Rice is the most abundant production of Siam. There are two kinds one called the Garden Paddy or Rice *Khao pluek* or *Khao san, nı suen,* which is the growth of some very favorable and well cultivated spots near Bangkok and the other called the country Paddy or Rice *Khao pluek* or *Khao Na Meuang* being the growth of the interior and other parts. The price of the former description of Rice is 24 to 32 ticals per coyan, and of the latter 15 to 20 ticals per coyan, and the usual export duty is 8 Ticals per pecul. Rice is sold by the Siamese measure, a Thanan choopah or

cocoanut shell, 21 of which go to a measure or basket, and 100 measures to a Siamese coyan, equal to form 25 to 27 China peculs in weight.

The Government of Siam do not admit of a free exportation * quality and abundance of its teak. The finest is brought down the Menam in large rafts from Raheng on the borders of Laos, and these rafts may be bought for very moderate prices. The Portuguese consul purchased 300 logs of from 5 to 6 salungs each. There are other timbers besides teak, of very fine quality for the purposes of ship building and in great abundance. The Portuguese Consul purchased the whole of the masts and yards for a ship of 500 tons burthen for only 1300 Ticals. The usual mode of selling timber is by measurement of the length in Siamese fathoms cubits and spans, and of the circumference in Kams or fists one placed over the other. The great abundance of timber at Bangkok and the rise of the tide there from 18 to 20 feet during spring tides induced the Mission to believe that were some proper shipwrights, Parsees from Bombay or Burmese from Bangkok, taken to teach the Chinese and Siamese, few places in the world could offer greater advantages for ship building. The Mission therefore used much exertion to persuade the Siamese Ministers to insert a clause in the Treaty specially engaging the Siamese Government to afford facilities to British Subjects desirous of building vessels at Bangkok. The Ministers declined however to insert such a clause but declared that should the treaty be ratified by the Governor General and friendly relations permanently established between the Siamese and British nations, no difficulties should be interposed to prevent British subjects from undertaking Shipbuilding at Bangkok.

* sic.

Cocoa nut oil, *Namman Maphrao*, would form a good article of export from Siam. There is a great

abundance of it, and the usual price of the 1st sort is from 7 to 8 ticals per pecul and of the 2nd sort from 5½ to 6½ per pecul. The annual produce is said to be 50,000 peculs of which 20,000 are exported. The usual price of this article at Penang and Singapore has of late years been as high as 18 and 20 Sp. Dollars per pecul.

The Benzoin of Siam, or rather Laos *Kam-yan* is cleaner whiter and much finer in appearance than that of Sumatra, and in consequence of the favorable report which was first made of it Messrs. Hunter and Mallock bought up a good quantity. Subsequent advices from England however informed them that the Chemists of London had discovered it not to be the same substance or of equal value as the Benzoin of Sumatra. The price at Bangkok was at one time so high as 120 ticals per pecul, but it has lately fallen to 50 ticals.

Of Gamboge *Rong* we may only mention that there are two kinds, one in large cakes, and the other cleaner and more valuable in long round pieces, having been filled in bamboos. The usual price of the former is from 40 to 50 ticals per pecul, and of the latter from 50 to 60 Ticals. The annual produce of the whole is estimated at 250 or 300 peculs. A muster of this article brought to Calcutta has been much admired.

The quantity of Tin *Dibuk* annually brought to Bangkok is estimated at 10,000 peculs of which only 5000 are exported. Ligor, Ch'hoomphon and other places on the west coast of the Gulf of Siam send up their tin to the capital. The produce of Junkceylon is seldom sent up but upon special requisition. The Chief of Phoonga with an Agent there on the part of the King, disposes of the produce of Junkceylon in the direction of Penang and the Coast of Coromandel. 32 ticals per Ct. is the usual price at Bangkok.

Of Ivory *Gna Chhang* we may observe, that the annual produce is estimated at 800 peculs, and that the usual price is 150 ticals per pecul of 2 teeth and 8 ticals less for every additional tooth required to make up the pecul. A good many rhinoceros horns *No ret* may be had at Bangkok where a curious one sometimes produces so high a price as 400 ticals for the China market.

The annual produce of sticklac *Khrang* of 3 qualities is estimated at 15000 peculs and the usual prices from 14 to 15, from 13 to 14 and from 7 to 8 ticals respectively. A muster of this article brought to Calcutta has been much admired.

Black Pepper *Phrik Thai* is 11 or 12 ticals per pecul and the produce 70,000 peculs. White pepper *Phrik Ton* is 24 to 26 ticals per pecul and the produce 250 peculs. These prices with an export duty of 3 and 6 ticals per pecul prevented the British Merchant from taking away this article, almost the whole of which has hitherto been reserved by the King and Court for their trade to China.

There is an abundance of salt *Kleua* in Siam of the finest quality. At least 2000 Coyans might be annually exported, from 3 to 6 ticals per coyan of 25 peculs.

The finest cotton *Fai* in Siam is the produce of some district on the confines of Tavoy near Menam. A muster of this brought to Calcutta has been much admired. The annual produce of three qualities of this article is estimated at 50,000 peculs. The usual price of the first is from 17 to 22 ticals and of the 2nd. from 15 to 18 ticals per pecul. There is a 3rd. quality sold with the seed for 5½ to 7 ticals per pecul.

Cow and buffaloes hides *Nang Ngooa, Nang Khwai* may be had to an extent of 30,000 at the rate of from 3½ to 4 ticals per pecul.

There are 3 qualities of Cardamoms *Sak-Kra-van* almost the whole of which is carried to China. The first sells for 280 ticals per pecul and there are about 200 peculs of it produced. The 2nd. for 200 ticals, and there are about 300 peculs of which about 50 peculs are consumed in the country. The 3d sells for about 150 ticals per pecul and of this there is about the same quantity produced and consumed in the country as of the 2d. quality.

Bees wax *Khi pheung* may be had in Siam of a good quality and sometimes cheap. The quantity annually brought to Bangkok was estimated at 250 to 300 peculs and the usual price said to be from 50 to 100 ticals per pecul.

Besides a little gold *Thong Kham* and Iron *Lek* from the West coast of the Gulf of Siam, some Copper *Thong deng* and Lead *Dibook dan* from Laos and Tin*

(* Two lines here have been incorrectly copied and have been omitted.)

* * * * * *

Bengal rum might be very profitably carried to Bangkok and might be made from its cheapness and better quality to throw out of use entirely the pernicious spirit *Shumshoo Lao Chek,* of which so large a quantity is now consumed in the country that the Excise farms upon it yield to the Government a revenue of 3,448 Catties or 275,840 Ticals per annum. The Chinese population admit that no respectable Siamese is addicted to drinking. Very few however of the Chinese have ever been persuaded to taste European wines or Cherry Brandy.

A British Merchant or Commander should always insist upon transacting his business directly with the Phra Khlang, who will be found much more tractable and moderate than his subordinate officers, to whom however he is very fond of referring the foreign trade. The best hours for seeing the Phra Khlang are in the morning and evening between 6 and 9 o'clock. He as well as every other Minister attends the King twice in

the 24 hours, between 8 or 9 and 1 or 2 o'clock. Most of the public business is transacted at the night audiences, and the Phra Khlang if at home is generally bathing or sleeping between 1 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Respecting the navigation of the Menam the Mission collected the following information.

Mandelslo in 1639 relates "That channel of this river which is most commodious for barks or vessels is that which lies most E. at thirteen degrees and a half elevation, but what makes it useless is that there lies a shelve a league in length or better, at the mouth of the river, which at low water holds not above 5 or 6 foot water. At high water it holds 15 or 16 foot, and in September, October and November 17 or 18 foot. Vessels of great burthen ordinarily stay in the road two leagues from the shelve, where having at no time less than 5 or 6 fathom water they ride secure.

Tachard in 1685 states that the river at its mouth is * the result tended to confirm what we had privately learnt at Bangkok, that the Siamese pilots are instructed to navigate foreign vessels through the worst channel over the bar. All our enquiries led us to believe that at no time of the year is the water over the bar so much as 19 or 20 feet, but that in the Spring and in the months of September October and November it may sometimes be so high as 17 feet and during the rest of the year from 12 to 15. The bar itself consists of a narrow strip of hard sand, about 5 or 600 feet wide, and on this some Chinese junks are annually lost but on both sides of this strip and particularly towards the land, the ground is soft mud in which a vessel may lie for any time 3 or 4 feet deep, or through which it may warp without the smallest chance of injury. The nature and periodical changes of the tides in Siam are very little known to European navigators. At the bar we

* sic. Something apparently omitted.

found most water on the 3d. or 4th. night after the change of the moon, the day tides were inconsiderable, and at Bangkok we often observed but one tide during the 24 hours, and very often it was not of sufficient force to cause the vessel to swing to it. Still it would be prudent for vessels proceeding to Bangkok to moor off the town, as lying at single anchor subjects a vessel to sheer about the river, and to damage some of the floating houses on each side, any accident of which nature will involve the Commander in very unpleasant discussions with the Phra Khlang and the owners of the houses for compensation. Within the bar however the Menam is certainly one of the finest streams in the world. The Mission Brig in working up repeatedly came so close to the banks as to force the branches of trees into the stern windows, and to excite much alarm that she would ground if the lead had not shown 5, 6 or 7 fathoms of water. With the exception of only one place, where a bank has been formed by the old Dutch store house (Fort Amsterdam) having fallen into the stream, the navigation from Paknam to Bangkok is free from all danger or difficulty, and the map of the river given in Kaempfer's History of Japan appears extremely correct. There is a small channel however not marked in that map, through which a small boat may pass in some seasons of the year * 5 minutes. The lower entrance of the channel is at Paklaat on the right bank of the * Members of the Mission were forced to take shelter in bed at sunset from these troublesome animals.

* sic.

* Something omitted.

Tables of Siamese Coins, Weights and Measures.

Coins and Currency.

212½ *Bia hoi* or Cowries	1 *Phai*	This was formerly a very small Silver coin now very seldom seen.

2 *Phai*	1 *Song phai* or double phai. This coin also is seldom seen.
4 *Phai* or 2 *Song phai*	1 Phooang.
2 *Phooang*	1 Salung or as the Portuguese call it Mayam.
4 *Salungs* or *Mayams*	1 Ngun or Silver Bat or as the Portuguese call it tical —nearly 1¼ Sa. Rs.
4 *Bat* or Ticals	1 Tumling or Chinese tale, an imaginary coin.
20 Tumling or tale ...	1 Ch'hang or Catty or 80 Bat or Ticals.
50 Ch'hang or Catties ...	1 Hap or pecul 4000 Bat or ticals.

Accounts are always kept in Catties, Tumlings, Ticals, Salungs and Phooangs, but it should be remembered that the Chinese pecul of 100 Catties is never used in the account of Government. If the coin become whiter in the fire it is taken as good silver—if darker or black it is considered base.

The Rupee and copper pice are not current at Bangkok but the Sp. Dollars, called *Ngun Rujen*, is readily taken at an exchange of 6½ Salungs per Sp. Dollar.

Measure.

12 *Niou* or thumbs breadth	1 *Kheup* or Span.
2 *Kheup*	1 *Sok* or Cubit
2 *Sok*	1 *Khen* or Arms length from the thumb to armpit
4 *Sok*	1 *Wa* or fathom equal to 6 feet 6 inches English.
20 *Wa*	1 *Sen*.
100 *Sen*	1 *Yot* or Siamese league.

By the above land, cloth and ships are measured. Timber is measured by fathoms in length, and Kam or fists one over the other in circumference.

The timber fathom is said to be 4 inches less than the above, which was taken from a careful measure of the King's Rod and found to be 78 inches. The Kam is above 5 inches.

Weights.

16 Tumling or Chinese Tale	1 Ch'hang or Chinese Catty.
100 Ch'hang or Catties	1 Hap or Chinese pecul which ought to equal 133⅓ lbs. English, but upon examination it was found to be only 129⅓ lbs. The Siamese pecul is subdivided into 50 catties but the Chinese is that in most general use except in money accounts.

Measures

Salt, Paddy and Rice measure as established by the King.

4 Phai mui or handfuls	1 Thanan, Choopah, or cocoa nut shell.
21 Thanan	1 Thang, para, measure or basket.
100 Thang	1 Kyen or Coyan, equal to from 25 to 27 P. weight.

2 Thangs or baskets are allowed to every Coyan of paddy and to every Coyan of rice. Salt, paddy and rice measures are often used by private agreement.

25 Thanans, Choopasses or Cocoa nut shells	...	1 Thang, para, measure or basket.
80 Thang		1 Koyen or Coyan equal to from 20 to 22 peculs weight.

The Penang Coyan is equal to 800 Gantoms or 3200 Choopahs.

The Siamese Coyan is not more than 2000 or 2100 Choopahs.

Shumshoo or Wine Measure.

20 Thanans or Choopahs or Cocoa nut shells		1 Thang.
4 Thang		1 Hap or Pecul.

Oil is sometimes sold by the same measure as paddy and rice—generally by weight at the rate of about 100 Choopahs or Thanan to the Hap or Pecul.

We shall give some account of the principal officers of the Court of Siam. In the character of the present King of Siam we have every ground for looking forward to a continuance of friendly relations with the Government of Siam. He is the same person whom Mr. Crawfurd describes as *Krom Chet*, the eldest son of the late Monarch by an inferior wife. His succession to the throne was effected without the slightest bloodshed and with the full consent of all the other Princes, who considered him much more qualified to the throne. Asiatic States being ill regulated and rendered uncertain by the caprice or partiality of the Kings themselves, the most advanced in age is preferred, or rather it is force which always decides it. The people* to the Royal family, and not to a certain prince of the Royal family. The present King is now about 39 years of age, and the actual personal interest which he takes in all affairs of the kingdom, has rendered him generally popular.

* The word 'most' is inserted here on the original, but other words appear to be omitted.

He is not so extravagant, superstitious or addicted to to women as the late Monarch was, and the office which he filled in the time of that indolent Monarch, of superintending the foreign and commercial Departments of the State has put him in possession of a great deal of practical information respecting the real interests of his country, and the power and resources of the British Government. From all that the late Mission saw and heard of the King, it had no hesitation in considering him as the first person in the Court, in talent and intelligence. His Majesty early saw the advantage of entering into a treaty with the British Government, and his sentiments regulated the conduct of P. Krom Meun Soorin, as well as the demeanour of the Phra Khlang, who always returned from the Palace with an increase of politeness and complaisance towards the Envoy. His Majesty immediately upon his accession liberated the whole of his father's wives and concubines, contrary to the practice upon every former occasion when the successor to the throne took possession of the women as well as the estate of his father. He directed also the pecuniary allowances fixed by the late Monarch for his principal wife and eldest son Chao Fa to be continued, showing in these two instances a propriety and generosity of conduct which have gained him an unusual proportion of respect and reverence from the people of Siam. His first name was Chao Thap Prince Army, having been born on the day that his father had given orders to assemble an army against the Burmese. But this name according to the customs of the Siamese is now never mentioned, and he is known only as *Chao Chivit*, the Lord of Life, *Wang Looung*, Lord of the Palace, or more generally *Phra Phoothi Chao yu hua*, the God Phut or Boodh who dwells over every head. Almost every object that the Mission succeeded in bringing to the notice of the King it accomplished. The difficulty was to persuade or oblige the Ministers to communicate our opinion and wishes to His Majesty.

The first and principal object of any future Mission to Siam ought to be directed towards altering this system of the Minister being the only channel of communication and of effecting a direct intercourse with the King. His Majesty has several children by inferior wives, and it is supposed that he will nominate a Daughter of the Raja of Ligor by whom he has lately had a son, his principal wife. The Queen of Siam however does not, like [the queen] of Ava, possess any influence in the State, nor is she known to interfere in any matter beyond the domestic arrangements among the females in the interior of the Palace. It may here be added, that the White Elephants of Siam also neither possess the same high rank in the state, nor is treated with the same magnificence and veneration as the white elephants of Ava, There are two animals of this description now at Bangkok, and although the title of *Chao Phya Pheu-uk* is bestowed upon them, they have no high officers to attend upon them nor are they lodged in any splendour or served in vessels of any value. They are viewed by the lowest Siamese without any adoration or even any extraordinary respect.

The personage next in rank to the King is the Wang-na who is the same Prince styled *Krom Sak* during Mr. Crawfurd's Mission. He is uncle to the present King and nephew to the Raja of Ligor. We have already given some account of the nature of this office and of the characters of the person now filling it. It is difficult to denominate this officer by any term known to Europeans.

* * * * * *

* Here follows an extract from a French (unnamed) author, so badly copied that it makes utter nonsense. It has therefore been omitted.

The term Wang-na has been translated Heir Apparent but the real signification is "Front of the Palace" meaning that this officer is the first and nearest to the Place. During some reigns there has been an officer of very nearly equal rank and consideration styled "*Wang-lang*" or "Rear of the Palace."

But the existence of that office, as well as that of Wang-na seems to depend upon the will of the King. The late Monarch maintained neither. During some reigns also, but only apparently during a minority, there have been two other officers of very high rank, named *Chao Phya Sudham montri* and *Chao Phya Sudhama-dhiraj*, who were superior in rank to the other Ministers, and a kind of guardians of the King's person and who could approach him at all hours.

The other title of the Wang-na is Phra Banthoon, or the Sacred First Petitioner, he being considered as the person to whom all petitions are to be submitted in the first instance. The next persons in the State of Siam are the two Princes of the blood, *Chao Krom Meun Soorin*, who presides over the foreign and commercial affairs, particularly over the Phra Khlang's Department and *Chao Krom Meun-Ram*, who superintends the judicial and military departments. They are brothers and second cousins of the King. The Mission was introduced to both these Princes, and at the Palace of Chao Krom Meun Soorin the Envoy and six ministers met to discuss and finally settle the Treaty of Alliance. The Prince himself presided over and regulated these deliberations, and on every occasion His Highness displayed such intelligence, candour, moderation and princely courtesy as surprised and commanded the respect and gratitude of the Members of the Mission, who earnestly beg to recommend that some special token of the Governor General's acknowledgment of such conduct be transmitted from Bengal to that place. There are in the whole nearly 3000 Princes in Siam. Most of them receive some small stipends from the Crown, but very few of them possess any office in the State. Little can be said in favour of the character or conduct of many of these Princes. They engage in trade and some of them in trade of the lowest kind. The Mission saw one Prince, a tinman, whose person, according to the

Siamese law of Debtcr and Creditor Messrs. Hunter and Mallock once detained in their own house in consequence of his breach of faith and attempt to evade payment; and we heard an anecdote of another Prince who collected the duties upon Sapan wood and sugar. In fact he may be more properly considered as the Farmer of both these sources of revenue. He is said to be a great personal favorite with the King, and he will most probably succeed his brother as Phra Khlang in the event of the death or removal to a higher office of the latter. As he possesses much more intelligence, energy and courtesy than his brother, he will most probably make a much better Phra Khlang. The characters of Phya Ch'hoduck and Phya Chula, as well as of the subordinate officers Ratsithi, Luang Keoyat or Pomat, and the Native Christian Interpreters have been given before. All letters by sea are carried to the Phra Khlang, who exercises also a superintendence over all places on the East Coast of the Gulf of Siam, from Paknam to the frontiers of Cochin China, the Governors of which places transmit their reports directly to that Minister. All letters that arrive at Bangkok overland are carried to the Department of the Kalahom. In all future communications with the Court of Siam the Mission would suggest the following course to be adopted. The address from the Governor General to the King of Siam should be a very short and complimentary one, referring to another letter from the Secretary to Government in the Political Department which last letter should declare the objects of the communication, and these cannot be given in too great a detail. Translations in the Portuguese language only should accompany the letter, in which care must be taken to enumerate and describe each particular article of the presents, that may be transmitted at the same time. The translations from the Persian or Malay languages into the Siamese appeared to the Mission to be very inaccurately

Something omitted

The next Minister to the Phra Khlang is *Chao Phya Thorama*, or as he is often styled *Krom Wang*. He is a kind of Lord Chamberlain or Lord Steward, and exercises superintendence over the king's household, and those residing within the very* of the Palace. The present incumbent was lately one of the Phra Khlang's Department and styled *Phya-Thip-Kosa*. He is an old man, possessing apparently but little influence in the State, and the Mission saw him and his deputy and Assistant *Phya* or *Ok Phya Raj Mon thien*, and *Phya* or *Ok Phya Bam-rophak*, only at the conferences which took place between the Envoy and the Privy Council. The 5th Minister of State is *Chao Phya Phollo-thep* or as he is often styled *Krom na*. He is the officer at the head of the Land Revenues of the country, and the collector general of the taxes. The present incumbent is an old infirm man, reputed to be extremely rich, and one of his daughters is the Phra Khlang's principal wife. The Minister on a certain day annually stands on one leg during an hour and whilst a field is ploughed around him. If he fails to stand the allotted time he is abused and beaten by the populace, and if successful he exercises all the powers of the King during that day and receives on his own account whatever customs or other [revenues] are paid in on that day. This absurd ceremony has been substituted for the ancient custom which required the Kings of Siam, as well as the Emperors of China, to descend and hold the plough with their own hands once a year. The Mission saw this Minister and his deputy *Phya* or *Ok Phya Phracha chip* only at the conference between the Envoy and the Privy Council.

* sic. ? vicinity.

The 6th Minister of State is *Chao Phya Yomarat* or as he is often styled *Krom meu-ung*. He is the chief Criminal Judge of the Kingdom, and all murders, thefts and robberies committed, as well at Bangkok, as at the other parts of the Kingdom under the

jurisdiction of the Chakri, Kalahom and Phra Khlang are referred to this officer. The present incumbent appears a quiet, humble character, possessing little or no influence in affairs of State. The Mission saw him and his deputy *Phya* or *Ok Phya Rat Rong-Muang* only at the conferences between the Envoy and the Privy Council.

The Ministers of the Wangna are as follows.

Phya or *Okphya Chasen* similar to the King's Chakri and his Deputy *Phya* or *Okphya Rajjotha.*

Phya or *Ok phya Kalahom,* and his deputy *Phya* or *Ok phya Sena phubet.*

Phya or *Ok phya Monthian thiban* similar to the King's *Tharama.*

Phya or *Ok phya Vichhaiindra* similar to the King's *Yomorat.*

Phya or *Ok phya* and his deputies *Phya Wisoot Kosa* and *Phya* similar to the King's Phra Khlang and his deputies *Phya Phiphut* and *Phya Si phi phut.*

The Mission had much communication with Phya Kray and Phya Wisoot.

Both of them had visited Penang and other countries to the East and both of them displayed a proportionable superiority of intelligence to the other Ministers of the King. These Ministers as well as some other of the Wangna's petty officers—Radsithi the Port Captain, Luang Sunton a Moorman, and Khun Chit—are joined with the Phra Khlang's Department. Ok phya or Ok ya is taken from the Cambodian title Ok-neaa, and it is used only in the letters and public writings of the deputies and Assistants of the King's principal Ministers and of the Ministers and their Deputies belonging to the Wangna. *Ok-phra, Ok Khun, Ok Mean* &c. cited by

the old European travellers are now out of vogue. The following is a list of the Sianese titles now conferred by the King of Siam.

1st. *Chao*—a Prince.

2d. *Chao Phya*—Besides the Principal Ministers and a few other of the highest officers at Bangkok, this title has been conferred upon the Governor of only two Provinces, Ligor and Chantabun.

3d. *Ok-phya* or *Okya*—This official rank has been before explained.

4th. *Phya*—Besides many officers at Bangkok, this title is conferred upon most of the Governors of Provinces, who are styled *Phya Salang, Phya Choomphon, Phya Soongkhla* &c.

5th. *Phra*—By this term all priests are designated and yet it is a civil title also conferred upon many officers at Bangkok, as *Phra Wisit Rosa* (!), *Phra Lacon* &c. and upon the Governors of districts, as *Phra Tukoa pi, Phra Tukoa thong* &c.

6th. *Luang* or *Chiom.* The second is more respectable than the first and is used only by an inferior to a Luang whose title is most extensively conferred. It is very common however to see one of this rank whipped.

7th. *Khun* or *Mome.* The 2d. term here also is said to be more respectful than the first. Most of the Native Christian Interpreters hold this title.

8th. *Meun.*

Nai. This term is often applied to the chiefs of a Department as well as given to an officer like a centurion.

The Mission has collected a number of Dictionaries, Vocabularies, Historical and other works in the Siamese language, respecting which it may be found

by learning that *Ma*, according to the accent, is a horse, a dog or to come, Seeua a mat, a tiger, a dress or clever, and Kao, rice, mountain, white, news and to enter.

This paper cannot be closed without some endeavour to submit to the notice of Government, and to do justice to the conduct of those with whom it was the good fortune of the late Envoy to Siam to be connected. To the sound sense and judgment, and the dispassionate mind which Captain H. Macfarquhar applied to every question, as well as to the cordial and friendly assistance which he afforded on every occasion, the Envoy feels deeply indebted. Mr. Acting Assistant S.* Harris not only gratuitously assisted the Envoy as an Amanuensis, but took pains to acquire a knowledge of * Ligor and the Phra Khlang were afraid to let him administer to their children until they had seen him first take such medicines fearlessly.

* S. = Surgeon

* An omission apparently occurs here.

To Captain G. Sutherland also the Envoy is much obliged for his constant attentions and for the great care which he took on every occasion to prevent any of the crew of the Guardian from giving offence to the Siamese.

The escort of sepoys also, under Mer Soobavey Subadar having been selected from the same regiment as that to which the Envoy belongs, showed at all times a most pleasing interest in the success of the Mission under several awkward circumstances, and particularly on the voyage from Ligor to Bangkok when the Rajah of Ligor's followers were discovered to have laid in salted and pickled pork as sea provisions the whole of the sepoys conducted themselves with* the conduct of sepoys Shaick Bannoo Shaick Kascar Ally, Shaik Maddar Bux 1st and Syed Noquedeen, who

* sic. Something apparently omitted

volunteered to convey the Envoys dispatches to Martaban and Tavoy, and who proceeded to those places and returned from there over a difficult and most unhealthy country, in company only of some Siamese and Peguers, with whose language they were wholly unacquainted. On their return to Bangkok these were all attacked by a fever which nearly carried them to their graves.

(Signed) H. BURNEY.
Envoy to the Court of Siam.

Fort William *
2d. Decr. 1826.

* There follow Burney's notes and explanations of the various articles of the treaty. These have already been printed

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 342.

Secret Dept. No. 12.

FORT WILLIAM 22d December 1826.

No. 3.

In this separate paper it is proposed to discuss the questions relating to the local interests of Prince of Wales Island, and to report the proceedings of the Mission with reference to the King of Queda and the Malay States on the Peninsula of Malacca.

Much difference of opinion prevails among the public officers to the Eastward with respect to the origin and nature of the relations subsisting between those States and the Empire of Siam. While some maintain that the present state of things has been produced by an undue aggression of power on the part of Siam, others are willing to acknowledge her interference to be founded on ancient rights and obligations. The question is one of fact and history, and not, as it has been too much treated, one of speculation and argument. The commencement of authentic history among the Malays is considered only to be dated from the introduction of Mahometanism, and the late Dr. Leyden has translated a work of character among the Malays, the "Sejara Malaya" or Malay Annals, which comprise a compilation of the most popular traditions existing among that people. The Portuguese historians had considered the Peninsula of Malacca to be the original country of the Malays, and had attributed the foundation of the City of Malacca to a Javan Chief, who after receiving an asylum from a King of Singapore murdered him and took possession of his throne, from which he was subsequently driven out by a King of Siam, whose son-in-law and *vassal* the deceased was. But later Dutch authors on the authority of Malayan books of character, have proved that the original country of the Malays was Menangeabow in the interior of Sumatra, whence a colony passed through Palembang on the same

Island to the extremity of the Malay Peninsula, and founded the City of Singapore about the year 1160, and that in 1252, a King of Singapore, being hard pressed by the forces of a King of Maja-pahit in Java, retired to the Northward and afterwards to the western Coast of the Peninsula, where in the following year he founded a new City to which he gave the name of Malacca. The indigenous inhabitants of the Peninsula are supposed to be a species of woolly headed negroes, some of which race are now occasionally to be seen. The above mentioned Malay Annals confirm this account of the migration of the Malays and of the origin of Malacca, but state some important circumstances regarding the former possessors of the Malay Peninsula, which circumstances have been omitted in an account of the early Malayan Establishments on the Peninsula compiled by an officer belonging to the Establishment of Prince of Wales Island. The Malay Annals declare that previous to the arrival of the Malays on the Peninsula some relations subsisted between Siam and the Chiefs of the Island of Bintang. That at that time there was a City of some extent with a fort on the banks of the river Dinding in the vicinity of Perak, and another country and fort up the river of Johor bearing a Siamese name, Khlang Khian, or place of the emerald, and defended by *Siamese* troops; that the land of Siam in ancient times was named Seheri Navi and had all the regions under the wind (the phrase familiarly employed by the Malays to denote their own countries) dependent on it, and that formerly Pahang was an extensive country dependent on Siam. The Mission has not yet had an opportunity of examining some historical works which it obtained at Bangkok in the Siamese language, but Lieut. Low states that books in his possession mention that Queda was originally colonized by the Siamese, and early governed by a Siamese race, which had been made to acknowledge the supremacy of Siam until the introduction of

Islamism. That a Raja of Queda is afterwards noticed as one of the tributaries of Ligor, and that although the race has now become mixed by the arrival of Malays from other countries, there is not a respectable and well informed Native of Queda who will attempt to deny, that previous to the introduction of Mahometanism his country was exclusively inhabited by the Siamese race, who were worshippers of Boodh or some other Hindoo Deity. The only knowledge which has been published in Europe regarding the early history of the Siamese is that obtained by M. Loubère, who says that it is full of fables and that it does not ascend very high with any character of truth. The Siamese epoch begins from the death of Sommona Kodom in the year 544 before Christ. The first King of Siam began his reign in the year of Christ 756, and kept his court at Chay Pappi Mahanakon, a place the situation of which is unknown. The 11th King removed the capital to Tasoo Nagora Louang the situation of which also is unknown. In the year 1187 the 23rd. King removed his capital to Lakhontay in about Lat. 20° and afterwards to Pipeli or Phriphri. The situation of this last city in about Lat. 13°. 20″ and immediately contiguous to the Malay Peninsula, must have enabled Siam at that time to overlook the whole of the Malay States. The 27th King of Siam began in 1350 to build the city of Si-a-yoo-tha-ya, where he fixed his capital. M. Loubère does not state whether the Siamese historians mention early connexion between Siam and the Malay States, but according to the Malay Annals, the influence of the 2d. King of Malacca and 8th Malay King Sultan Mahomed Shah, who ascended the throne in 1276 and reigned 57 years, and who first embraced the Mahomedan religion, extended over the islands of Lengen and Bintang, together with Johore, Pahang, Queda and Perak, the whole of which acquired the appellation of Malaya, and that it was only ten years before the foundation of the city of Si-a-yoo-tha-

ya in the year of Christ 1340, that the Siamese first began to interfere with the Government of Malacca which was then under its sixth King Sultan Mozuffar Shah. A King of Siam being jealous of the growing power of Malacca invaded the country, and in a second expedition laid siege to the capital, where his armies were entirely repulsed. The 7th King of Malacca Sultan Mansur Shah, who ascended the throne in 1374 appears to have deputed an Embassy to the King of China as well as one to the King of Siam, and with respect to his successor Sultan Ala-wa-eddin, who ascended the throne in 1447 Mr. Marsden states that during his reign of 30 years nothing particular is recorded, but there is reason to believe that his country during some part of that time was under the power of the Siamese. The Malay Annals confirm the first part of what Mr. Marsden states, as with exception of a war with the Kingdom of Aru in Sumatra, they give frivolous accounts only of Sultan Ala-wa-eddin's discussions with the police of Malacca, but they make no mention whatever of Siam during this monarch's reign; and Mr. Marsden does not cite the grounds or authority upon which he believes Malacca to have submitted at this time to the power of the Siamese. In 1509 Sultan Mahomed Shah the 9th and last King of Malacca succeeded in repelling an attack which a Rajah of Ligor had been ordered by the King of Siam to make against Pahang. This had been called an aggression on the part of the King of Siam, although the Malay Annals relate that Pahang was formerly dependent on Siam and that its Chief spoke the Siamese language at the time Sultan Mansur Shah of Malacca had attacked and possessed himself of it. The Portuguese conquered Malacca in 1511 and drove the above mentioned Sultan Mahomed Shah to Johor, to the extremity of the Peninsula. At the time Alonzo de Albu-

querque took Malacca he received there an Embassy from the King of Siam, who is said to have rejoiced to see his quarrel revenged, though by another hand, and who six years afterwards, agreed to an application which an Ambassador from the King of Portugal made to him, to send people to inhabit Malacca, that the Moors might be expelled from it. In 1523 however some Portuguese Envoys deputed to China were seized and confined at Canton, and the Emperor offered to release and hear them if the Portuguese would restore Malacca to its King, who was declared to be subject to China. Whether this pretension on the part of the Celestial Empire was founded on the Mission sent there by Mansur Shah, the former King of Malacca, or on the connection which appears always to have subsisted between China and Siam, does not appear. But the Portuguese Government of Malacca never treated any of the Malayan States on the Peninsula as subject to Siam, with the exception latterly of Patani, They never felt any hesitation, even at the time they cultivated the most friendly relations with Siam, to attack and chastise these States. In 1517 they accepted the offer of a King of Pahang to pay yearly tribute to the King of Portugal. In 1523 they laid waste Pahang and Patani in 1523, 1537 and 1583 they attacked Johore, in 1585 and 1603 they destroyed and subdued that State. In 1614 they burnt the towns of Queda and Purlis, in 1613 a King of Pahang came to their assistance with a force of 2000 men during one of the sieges of Malacca by a King of Acheen, and in 1625 they accepted the offer of a King of Perak to transfer to Portugal the tributary payment which he had before made to Acheen. Neither do the Dutch, after they captured Malacca in 1642, appear to have treated any of the States on the Peninsula as subject to Siam. They early established factories at Johore and Perak without reference to Siam, and blockaded Queda about

the year 1664*; and latterly they bound the Chiefs of Rhio, Perak and Salangore by Treaty to hold their territories in vassalage of them. It is necessary to state however, that from a period shortly after the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese to the year 1600 the Siamese were too much engaged in other quarters to turn their attention to the Malay Peninsula. In 1546 Siam was engaged in wars with Laos. In 1548 Para Mandara, the 1st Burmese King of Pegu, invaded Siam by a route passing close to Queda and besieged the capital unsuccessfully. In 1568 Siam was again invaded by Chao Migrein, the 2d Burma King of Pegu, who captured the capital and rendered the Kingdom tributary. But in 1583 Siam revolted, and after frustrating repeated attempts made by Pegu to replace her yoke, obtained under Raja Api a decisive victory over the Peguers in 1599. Siam, after the ruin of Pegu, in 1600 is said to have recovered her former power under the warlike Raja Api, who conquered the countries of Cambodia, Laos, Ligor, Tenasserim, Patani and several others. Flores, who resided at Patani during the years 1612 and 1613, gives the above account of Raja Api's conquests, without naming the *several other countries* that Prince subdued, but he shows that an easy and frequent communication existed at that period between Queda and Patani, as some Dutch voyagers had before found, and that Pahang was connected with Patani. About the time of Raja Api, or shortly after, the Portuguese complained against a Queen of Patani to the King of Siam as her liege Lord, and from the reign of that Prince the Malay States on the

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* Dampier states that at Queda, Pulo Dinding and other places, where there was not sufficient trade to maintain a factory, or convenient place to build a fort so as to secure the whole trade, the Dutch used to send their Guardships, which lying at the mouth of the rivers deterred strangers from going there, and kept the petty princes in awe of them. Vol. 2, p. 164, 173.

Peninsula appear to have begun to feel or recognize in some degree the supremacy of Siam. The revolutions which again occurred in Siam on the death of Raja Api in 1605, and the occupation which was afterwards found her by the revolt of Cambodia and Laos, must have prevented the complete establishment of her Dominion over these Malay States, for in 1613 we find the kingdom of Johor, and six years after those of Queda and Perak, conquered and laid waste by a King of Acheen. The Portuguese however appear to have assisted Rajah Api's brother and successor the White Prince, to recover several provinces which the Kings of Ava and Pegu had taken from him. But two years after the conquest of Queda by the King of Acheen in 1621, Commodore Beaulieu visited Acheen and the Lancavy Island, from which last he opened a communication with the King of Queda, and the French officers whom he sent to the King collected the following intelligence, which is important as being perhaps the first account that the authentic testimony of a European traveller affords us of a connection between Queda and Siam. The Commodore learnt that the King of Acheen had carried off as captives the former King of Queda with his children, principal officers and 7000 of his people, and had so completely ravaged and laid waste the country, that the remaining inhabitants were reduced to eat the leaves of trees, and were so terrified that they fled to the summit of the mountains on the appearance of the smallest boat, imagining all who landed in their country to be either Achinese or their partisans, and that the reigning King of Queda had lately placed himself under the protection of the King of Siam, who, it was said, had begun to send 2000 men to protect him with a supply of some rice of which the people were totally destitute. Between the period of Commodore Beaulieu's visit, and the arrival of the first French bishops in Siam in 1662, little is known respecting the history of that Kingdom,

excepting accounts of internal commotion, of the cruelities of Chao Phasa-thong who reigned from 1627 to 1657, and of the manner in which Chao Narayana established himself on the throne. But this last Prince, soon after he assumed the Government in 1657, is described as having put himself at the head of his army, defeated his neighbours who had invaded his dominions, retained several cities which designed to revolt within the bounds of duty, and reduced to obedience, without much bloodshed, others which had actually thrown off their subjection. What proceedings he adopted with respect to the Malay States in particular does not appear, but that Acheen acquiesced in the protection which Siam had offered to Queda against her in 1621, may be inferred from the circumstance of Chao Narayana having received a complimenttary Embassy from Acheen in the year 1668. Twenty years after Dampier saw an Envoy arrive at Acheen deputed by the same Siamese Monarch. M. Chaumont, the French ambassador to Siam in 1685, learnt that Patani, Johor and Queda were tributary to Siam, and in enumerating its provinces mentions them and also Pra and Paam, Perak and Pahang. M. Choisy, who accompanied him, also reported Queda to be tributary to Siam in 1686, and M. Tachard, in his first voyage to Siam notices the Chiefs of Johore, Pahang and Patani as tributaries of the King of Siam. M. Chaumont's successor, M. Loubère, in 1688 when enumerating the provinces of Lower Siam does not however include Queda or Perak but only Johor and Patani, adding subsequently, the Governor of Johor renders obedience no longer, while the Queen of Patani only sends to the King of Siam every three years two small trees, the one of Gold, the other of Silver. Kämpfer who visited Siam in 1689, immediately after the death of Chao Narayana and usurpation of Petraatia or Petrarcha and expulsion of the French from Siam, states that the new King assumed the title of King of Siam, Tenassari,

Sucketa and Porseluke, as also of Protector of Cambodia, Johor, Patani and Queda. Kämpfer, on his way to Siam touched at Busut in the territory of Tringano, the inhabitants of which town, he states, spoke both Siamese and Malay. Petrarcha enjoyed his usurpation but for a short time, and the reigns of his two sons, who died respectively about the years 1733 and 1748, are said to offer nothing worthy of notice, excepting internal dissensions and unsuccessful wars with Cambodia and Cochin China. Captain Hamilton, however, who visited the Malay Peninsula and Siam between the years 1695 and 1720 states that Queda though small and poor was honored with the title of a Kingdom, that it was at that time independent but that it was many years tributary to Siam, and had thrown off the yoke in the long Pegu War, that Perak was properly a part of the Kingdom of Johore, the Dominions of which then reached four or five leagues to the Northward of Patani, that the Kings of Johore ever paid homage to King of Siam by sending them a rose made of gold in a golden box once in three years, and that the year 1719 happened to be the year that the rose came, for he (Captain Hamilton) saw the messenger that brought it to Siam. In 1748 the son of Petrarcha's second son, named Chao nal Padon, ascended the throne of Siam, and shortly after retired to a Pagoda, whence he was called back in 1759 when Alompra, after subduing Tavoy, the Governor of which had set himself up as independent, sent a force to destroy Mergui and Tenasserim, and in 1760 invaded Siam viâ Ligor, rendering that, and other parts of Lower Siam subject to his authority. In 1761 the Siamese army of Ligor appears to have recovered possession of Tavoy and Mergui and in 1762 Chao nal Padou again embraced the state of priesthood, abdicating the throne in favour of his brother. In the latter end of 1764 and beginning of 1765 Tavoy and Mergui were retaken by the Burmese, who in the following

year invaded Siam viâ Taunglee and Tavoy, capturing the capital on the 28th April 1765 (!), and rendering the Kingdom tributary to Shembuan King of Ava. Chao nal Padou's brother the reigning king was killed, and himself with his family carried captive to Ava. The Burmese Army shortly after retiring from Siam, Phya Tac assumed the reigns of Government, removed the capital to Bangkok, and not only entirely liberated the Kingdom from the yoke of Ava, but recaptured Ligor and other Provinces, the Governors of which had as usual availed themselves of the troubles with which Siam was inflicted to set up their independence. This Chief, who is commonly called the Chinese King of Siam, caused himself about the year 1759 (!!) to be recognised by Queda. Such was the nature of this recognition that Mr. James Scott in 1785 reported to the Governor General that Phya Tac had "*unrealmed*" the whole Malay Peninsula, and a French missionary who visited Queda in 1782 states, not only that Queda was at that time dependent on Siam, but that it was peopled by Siamese and that the Siamese language was more common than the Malay. Phya Tac was killed on the 7th of April 1782 and succeeded by his Chief Minister the Chak-kri. Shortly after the army of Minderagi, King of Ava, invaded and laid waste Ligor, Merdelong and other parts of Lower Siam, which were however soon recovered by the Siamese. Phya Tac's successor appears in 1786, about the time the British Government formed an Establishment at Prince of Wales Island, to have come down to Singora in the vicinity of the Malay States, and to have adopted measures for effectually securing the supremacy of Siam over them, summoning the King of Patani, Queda and Tringano to do personal homage and laying waste the Country of the first, for sending an unconciliatory reply. Mr. Light, the founder of the Establishment of Prince of Wales Island, states that no sooner had the Siamese recovered the places they had lost, than they resolved to call

to account all the neighbouring States which had not given the Siamese aid against the Burmese, and that the King of Queda had avoided the storm by submission. So appears the then King of Tringano to have done.

In addition to the above details we may state, that before the late irruption of the Siamese their language was in general use in the Northern villages of Queda, where the people had retained their ancient religion and customs, only slightly modified by their situation amongst the Malays. Many Siamese temples are dispersed throughout Queda, and the sites of others of ancient date now destroyed, or in a ruinous state, are well known to the present inhabitants. At a place named Manan or Compang Mannau near the source of the Murboo river and close to Prince of Wales Island, a Siamese temple exists, and the people are said to be chiefly Boodhists directly descended from the original inhabitants.

If then we follow the accounts of Native Historians, and even the Malay Annals, we shall find at least that Siam had possessions on the Malay Peninsula before the arrival there of the first Malay Colony from Sumatra; if we receive the accounts of the early European Travellers we must admit that most of the States on the Peninsula recognised at different times the authority of Siam. And, if we adopt any reasoning from analogy, we shall find it difficult to suppose that these petty Malay States could have been suffered to retain for so long a period as some of the officers of Government of Prince of Wales Island maintain, an unrestrained sovereign independence on the borders of so powerful a kingdom as Siam. The token among the Indo-Chimese nations of vassalage to a superior state is comprised in the transmission to it triennially of two small trees bearing flowers, one wrought in gold, and the other in silver, the whole expense of

which does not exceed 1,000 Spanish Dollars. The expense, although it is sometimes enhanced by the addition of a sum of money and rich clóths, forms no object for consideration, as the return made by the superior State in presents is always of much greater amount, but the obligation which this token involves is undefined, and regulated only by the wants or caprice of the paramount State, in requisitions at any time for troops, boats, guns or provisions. The origin of the custom is rather ingeniously accounted for by the King of Queda, who declares that in early times one of his ancestors happening to send a flower of gold to the eldest son of the King of Siam, a child, to play with, the present was construed into a token of inferiority or homage, and the custom thenceforth triennially exacted. But it is rather extraordinary that the custom should prevail among the other Malay States, and that the Countries of Upper Laos and Ava as well as Siam and China should be also well acquainted with it. The Chinese who travelled from the Kingdom of Siam to China reported according to Du Halde, that Mohang Kemaral was at that time tributary to Ava and that it sent ambassadors yearly to the King of Ava to carry this tribute, which consisted of two small shrubs, one having its leaves and flowers of gold and the other of silver. The King of Siam also was accustomed to transmit such flowers to China, although at present His Majesty is said to send only a small quantity of each description of the produce of his Kingdom. Ambassadors from Siam proceed annually to Canton, and triennially to Pekin, not only that the Junks which convey them may be exempted from the payment of all imposts, but that the very extensive and lucrative trade which the Court of Siam maintains with the different ports in China, may continue uninterrupted. The term tributary, with its adjuncts vassal, liege lord &c. appear to have been first introduced into India by the Portuguese,

whose proceedings towards many of the Indian Princes clearly show, that these expressions were meant by them to indicate conquest, submission and protection. Although the influence of Siam over the Malay States may originally have been the effect of conquest, yet that influence has been recognized by the weaker states some times as a means of securing her protection, as well as of purchasing an exemption from threatened oppression on her part. Siam however does not appear to have divested these States of the rights of Sovereignty, as with the exception of Patani she has suffered their Governments, laws, customs and religion, widely different from her own, to subsist entire, and this is the view which the British Government has ever taken of the condition of the Alliance between Siam and the Malayan States, considering the latter to possess so much of the rights of Government and Sovereignty as to be capable of entering into Treaties, and of even ceding a portion of their territories. But though the British Government, acting upon this principle, entered into an Alliance with the King of Queda in the year 1786 and deemed his permission sufficient to enable it to form an Establishment at Prince of Wales Island, still, nothing is more clear and indisputable in the whole history of its intercourse with the Malay States, than a steady and invariable determination on the part of the Supreme Government of India not to be led into an embarrassing participation in the interests and concerns of either Siam or any of the Malay States. Notwithstanding many applications from almost all the Malay States to the British Government to afford them protection against Siam or against each other, by forming settlements in their Dominions, and notwithstanding the repeated representations of the Local Government of Prince of Wales Island in favor of Queda, the Governor General in Council always limited our interference within the bounds of amicable counsel and mediation, deprecating

any political connection with the Malay States and considering an intercourse with them desirable so far only as may be requisite for promoting and preserving the Trade of the Commercial Posts established at Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore.

Of late years however, the resources of Siam having been improved by a long interval of repose, and by the renovation of her commerce, she turned her views towards establishing a more complete and general control over the Malayan States on the West Coast of the Peninsula. The King of Queda was first directed to attack Perak. Umbrage was soon after taken at the conduct of His Highness but before Siam ventured to attack him the Siamese Ministers made many enquiries of the Portuguese Consul at Bangkok to ascertain whether this measure would involve them in a war with the British Government. The King of Queda was expelled from his Dominions, and some time after the Portuguese Consul was again summoned by the Siamese Ministers, and narrowly examined respecting the claims of the British Government over the States of Perak and Salengore. That gentleman assured the Mission that his conferences with the Ministers convinced him of the intention of the Court of Siam to extend its Dominion not only over Perak and Salengore, but over Acheen also, and to impose Siamese Governments over every one of the Malay States.

These views of aggrandizement on the part of Siam the Government of Prince of Wales Island considered it indispensable for the British Government to oppose and counteract, because if they were carried into execution our Commercial Settlements of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore, which depended on the neighbouring Malay States for their supplies as well as commerce, would suffer the most serious inconvenience. It was argued, that while the

(sic.)
* Some words seem to be omitted here.

Netherlands Government continued at Malacca their presence, on the principles they acted * Siamese encroachments on Perak and Salengore, that they had transferred to us by the Treaty of the 17th March 1824 their rights and influence in this quarter. That unless we undertook the task of protecting these Southern Malay States and maintaining a continuous possession of the Malay Peninsula the Siamese would assume it; that the means of Siam had of late received still more extension from the diminished power of their great enemies the Burmese, and that, from her conduct to Queda it was evident if she were suffered to over run these Malay States, all trade and intercourse would be destroyed, and the Malay inhabitants driven out and forced into a life of plunder and piracy. These arguments however, in the absence of all communication of the sentiments of the home authorities, could not move the Governor General in Council to depart from the line of policy which the Supreme Government had ever pursued with respect to the Malay States on the Peninsula, and as was before shown in the instructions given to him, the duties of the Envoy to Siam were limited to endeavours to effect the restoration of the King of Queda by an amicable arrangement, and to secure every practicable degree of freedom and facility to the trade and intercourse subsisting between the British Settlements to the Eastward and the States of Lower Siam. Yet, in deference to the views and sentiments of the Government of Prince of Wales Island the question of Siamese supremacy over the Malay States was mooted by the Envoy at Bangkok. He succeeded in securing the safety of Salengore from Siamese encroachments, disproving the right of Siam over Perak and establishing the independence of its Government and in procuring an engagement that the Siamese shall not go and obstruct or impede the trade and intercourse subsisting between British Subjects and the States of Tringano and Kelantan. The Envoy further did not quit Bangkok without repeatedly pressing on

the Siamese Ministers *his belief*, that the British Government will not permit Siam to invade or oppress the other Malay States in the same manner as she had done Queda.

But it must not be concealed, that the great objection to the British Government pledging itself to afford such protection to these States, is the impossibility of seeing how far such a measure may draw it on. The weak and imbecile character and authority of most of the Malay Chiefs and constant quarrels among themselves, the unsettled laws of succession in their Governments which are a source of dispute on the death of almost every Prince, the exaggerated fears of the Malay inhabitants with respect to the Siamese, and the restless and meddling disposition of the latter, all conspire to render it highly probable that interference on the part of the British Government would involve it in extensive and complicated political relations, bring on a rupture sooner or later with Siam, and ultimately lead us to Bangkok, and to a direct occupation of the whole of the Malay Peninsula. These last mentioned results would indeed be certain were the Siamese Government made to relinquish its claims of superiority over these Malay States on any other terms than by an amicable arrangement and one by which its own interests would induce it to abide. It is necessary to connect an account of the proceedings of the Mission on this point with a separate notice of each of these Malay States, which may now be divided into the ten following, Lingen and Rhio, Johore, Pahang, Rhumbo, Patani, Tringano, Kelantan, Salengore, Perak and Queda.

The first Linga or Lingen and Riyou or Rhio, is the remains of the ancient Government of Malacca, which retired to Johore upon the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese, and after making repeated attempts to recover its former capital, attempts which served

only to destroy its resources and ultimately to dismember its remaining Territory, removed its seat to the island of Lingen and Bintang, the Chief Town of which last is Rhio. About the year 1604 the Dutch entered into a treaty with this State, the capital of which was then at Johore, where they had before established a factory, engaging the Chief to cooperate in an attack upon Malacca. The Dutch Factory at Johore was destroyed in 1613, when the King of Acheen plundered and laid waste that city. Since the early part of the century, the Bugis from Celebes have acquired a large share in the Government of Lingen and Rhio. Some of the same race repeatedly attacked Tringano in the year 1719/20 and a colony subsequently passed through Rhio to the Northward and settled at Salengore whence some of them in 1770 came still further north and attacked Queda. In 1783 these Bugis proceeded from Rhio and Salengore, and laid siege to Malacca, whence they were repulsed and the chief of Rhio slain, which prevented Captain Forrest from forming a Settlement at Rhio, for which purpose he had been commissioned by the Supreme Government at the invitation of that Chief. The Dutch shortly after proceeded from Malacca and attacked Rhio, subduing the Bugis and engaging the Sultan Mahomed Shah, by a Treaty dated the 10th Novr. 1784, to hold the realm of Rhio in fee as their vassal. In 1787 that Sultan reported to Mr. Light that the Dutch had infringed all the Articles of the Treaty, that a party of Illanon pirates from Mindanao had attacked Rhio and driven out the Dutch, and that he, the Sultan, had retired to Tringano, whence he solicited the assistance and protection of the British Government. In 1818 Colonel Farquhar under the orders of the Government of Prince of Wales Island, formed a Commercial Treaty with the reigning Chief of this State, under the title of Sultan of Johore, Pahang, Lingen and Rhio. In 1819 the Netherlands Government of Malacca renewed its former relations

with this Sultan, and established a factory at Rhio, which was a dependency of Malacca until the month of May 1824, two months after the treaty concluded at London between Great Britain and the Netherlands, when Rhio was placed in immediate communication with Java. The 10th Article of that treaty cedes Malacca and its dependencies to His Britannic Majesty. The 12th Article stipulates that no British Establishment shall be made on Bintang among other Islands, a stipulation which could not have been necessary if it were intended that the Chief of Bintang should remain a vassal of the King of the Netherlands, and that the Netherlands should continue in possession of Rhio, a rival port in the immediate vicinity of Singapore. It was of course intended that the British Government should not occupy Bintang, but it is difficult to discover on what grounds the Netherlands found their right of remaining there. Rhio had always been a dependency of Malacca and was so in fact on the 17th March 1824, the date of the treaty, the 8th Article of which further expressly engages "His Netherlands Majesty not only to cede all his establishments on the Continent of India, but to renounce all privileges and exemptions enjoyed or claimed in virtue of those Establishments." The island of Bintang abounds in *Gambier* which is extensively used with *betel* by the inhabitants of Java and by all Malays. It is said also to produce teak, while the port of Rhio is one of the best to the Eastward.

Until lately the principality of Lingen and Rhio embraced the whole of the Malay Peninsula from Muar in Lat 2° 10″ north on the West, and from Kamamang in Lat 4° 15″ on the East Coast, embracing all the Islands at the mouth of the Straits of Malacca lying between the 2d degree of North and the 1st degree of South Latitude, as well as several islands in the China

Seas lying between the 104th and 109th degrees of East Longitude as far as the Natunas. The Sultan resided on the Island of Lingen, the Rajah Muda or Heir Apparent with the Bugis at Rhio, the Tomongong or Commander in Chief by land at Johore and Singapore, and the Bindahara or Treasurer or High Steward at Pahang. But upon a younger brother having been proclaimed Sultan at Lingen, the elder brother removed and joined the Tomongong of Johore at Singapore. In 1819 the British Government entered into a separate alliance with this elder brother, who was proclaimed the legitimate Sultan of Johore, and who ceded to us the Island of Singapore. Since that date the islands South of the Straits of Malacca have been under the protection of the Dutch, and those lying to the North, as well as the Continental territory, between the extremity of the Peninsula and Lat. 2° 10′ on the west and Lat. 2° 15′ on the east Coast, under our protection, while the rest of the continental territory extending from Sideli in Lat. 2° 15′ to Kamamang in Lat. 4° 15′ continues under the Government of Pahang, which has long been independent, altho' the chief or Sultan was originally subject to the State of Lingen and nominally styled its Bindahara. Johore, when visited by the early Dutch voyagers and even at the time of Dampier and Captain Hamilton abounded in pepper, the cultivation of which has entirely ceased, and the whole territory is now described as barren and thinly peopled. The latter voyager, it has already been shown, includes Patani and Perak within the territories of Johore. He further gives an account of a Sultan of Johore having been removed from his throne in 1708 and sent by his people to reign at Pahang and Tringano, and of this Sultan of Johore having established his son at Pahang, and settled himself at Tringano, where Captain Hamilton saw him in 1719 much disturbed by his rebellious subjects, and their allies the Bugis, who threatened him with a fleet of 200 boats. In 1609 a

King of Johore appears to have complained to the Dutch against the then Queen of Patani, for having deprived his younger brother of his life, and of the territory of Patani which belonged to him the King of Johore.

The territory of Pahang, whose early relations with Siam and the Portuguese have been before noticed is also described by Captain Hamilton as abounding in his time in pepper, of which 300 Tons a year were exported, though if the inhabitants had a market they could in five years time, he observes, be made to produce 3000 tons. He also states that there was abundance of gold dust found in Pahang river, whence above 8 Cwt. had been exported some years, and that he had himself seen lumps of gold found there weighing 5 or 6 ounces each. At present tin and gold are the principal products of Pahang, of which last large specimens are still to be found. In 1719 the chief of Pahang was a son of the deposed Sultan of Johore, who left him at Pahang on his retiring to Tringano. The son, Captain Hamilton observes, was endeavouring with only 5 or 600 men to keep Pahang firm to his father, who held out that town as capable of being made a place of great trade if the English would settle in his country. Most probably the Bugis at that time separated Pahang from Tringano, and certainly all relations between Siam and the States of Johore and Pahang, as well as of Lingen and Rhio, appear to have ceased since the introduction into them of the Bugis influence, nor did the Siamese Ministers during their discussions with the late Mission, advance claims of superiority over any of these States. Yet it may be proper to notice, that in November 1818, at the time Sir Stamford Raffles was deputed to negotiate with Johore, the Supreme Government deprecated collision with Siam, considering the Chief of Johore as vassal to the Monarch of that country. An overland passage across

the Peninsula exists between Perak and Pahang, but the route is long and extremely difficult, occupying at least two months, and it has of late years been unfrequented.

Rhumbo is an inland state lying between Pahang and Malacca. This as well as Nanning, which now forms a district of the territory of Malacca, was attacked by the Portuguese about the year 1584, when the inhabitants of them were styled "*Menangeaboes*" and considered subject to Johore. The same account of them is given by Captain Hamilton, who describes them in 1702 as a barbarous, savage people which could never be civilized. A few years ago Sir Stam-Raffles discovered that the Raja of Rhumbo and all his officers receive their authority and appointments from the State of Menangeabo in the interior of Sumatra, and that the communication between these two States is carried on in the Malay Peninsula through the river Linge in the neighbourhood of Malacca and that of Siac on the Sumatra side. Since our occupation of Malacca however, the copy of a treaty between the Dutch and the Chief of Rhumbo has been discovered, making over the sovereignty of that country to Malacca in the year 1758. The Siamese Government is apparently unacquainted with the existence even of this State of Rhumbo.

The Malay Annals describe the City of Patani as having been founded a few years before the arrival of the Portuguese at Malacca, by Chao Sri Bangsa, a son of the King of Siam, who had sent him to reduce a Country named Cota Meliyei, the Raja of which was a Moslem. The Siamese Prince, upon overcoming that Raja, is said to have assumed the doctrine of Islam, built Patani, and placed himself under Sultan Mahomed of Malacca who granted him the ensigns of Royalty, the *Noubuts* of Kettle drums. A brisk trade and intercourse existed afterwards between Patani, Queda and the Portuguese Government of Malacca

which derived a large quantity of provisions from Patani. In the early part of the 17th century, both the English and Dutch, as well as the Portuguese had factories at Patani, and the early voyagers of these nations give accounts of the extensive trade, resources and population of Patani at that time. But after the Dutch involved the Queen with the Portuguese Government at Malacca, the factories of both the English and Dutch appear to have been withdrawn, and the country distracted with internal wars, which frustrated an attempt made by the Government of Fort St. George to settle a factory at Patani in 1678. M. Chaumont reports that the King of Siam had refused to permit either the Dutch or English to settle here, but that from the situation of the place, excellence of the port, which is the best on the Malay Coast and the resort of Chinese and many other foreigners, a more profitable establishment could be formed at Patani than even at Siam. We have already noticed the conquest at Patani by Raja Api, King of Siam, and the devastation of the country by the Siamese in 1786. In the year 1792 the Siamese appear again to have laid it waste, putting to death its principal people, and since that date the inhabitants are a mixed race of Siamese and Malays, which still proves refractory occasionally as it did in 1810. Its present limits are said to lie between the River Sai or a little to the Southward in about Lat. 6° 20″ and Tana, Ch'hena, or Sehena in 7° 25″ on the Coast; and inland it is separated from Queda and Perak by the great range of mountains running through the centre of the Malay Peninsula. But this State has long been divided into numerous and separate chieftainships under the superintending authority of the Siamese Governors of Ligor and Singora, through whom the several Chiefs send triennial tokens of inferiority to Siam. The following were named to the Mission at Bangkok, Ch'hena or Tana, [illegible]ha, Tani or Patani, Jamoo, Benera and Sai or Non[illegible]ai on the

coast, and inland, Chene Jala, Nong-Chik, Toom, Prawan, Raman, Roge or as named by the Malays Leggeh, Datoo or Jering. Jamoo only is under Ligor, the rest under Singora. But in addition to the foregoing, there appears to be several other petty States in Patani, such as Pugit or Poorgit which the Siamese attacked in 1786 and which was then described as a small Province bordering on Purlis in Queda, Belong and Kamoja, the Chief of which last solicited in 1820 an alliance with the British Government and cooperation in an attack upon Siam. The country of Patani is still said to be very populous and full of resources and the portion bordering on Queda extremely rich in tin, 1000 peculs of which were annually brought down the Murbow River, until very lately, when the system of revenue adopted by the King of Queda in his territories put a stop to almost all intercourse between Prince of Wales Island and the interior of the Malay Peninsula. In the year 1818, the late Colonel Bannerman opened a communication with the *Punghalu* or Chief of Kroh, a tin district in the territory of Raman who offered to send down the Muda River any quantity of tin required at Prince of Wales Island. The King of Queda however interposed and frustrated this attempt to open a commercial intercourse, which promised very great advantage. It was found that His Highness had rented to Chinese Merchants residing at Prince of Wales Island the exclusive privilege of navigating the Muda, as well as almost every other river in Queda and of conducting trade by that means, not only with the inhabitants of Queda, but with those of Patani and the interior of the Malay Peninsula who were in no degree subject to Queda. The late Mission to Siam made every exertion to correct such a mischievous system of obstructing trade and intercourse between two friendly States on the part of an intermediate petty chief, and Article 10th of the Treaty engages that an unrestrained trade and

intercourse by land and water shall exist between Prince of Wales Island and Patani, while Article 13th stipulates for the abolition of this system of farming out the navigation of the Rivers in Queda, and for the levying only of fair and proper import and export duties upon the transit of merchandize. The Raja of Ligor has also made application to be furnished with a copy of the Customs duties and port regulations in force at Prince of Wales Island, with an intention of establishing similar rates and rules in Queda on the fair principles of reciprocity.

The territory of Tringano is said to extend along the East coast of the Malay Peninsula from Kamamang in Lat. 4° 15″ to the River Basut Buse or Bosset, in about Lat. 5° 40″, and inland it is separated from Perak by the great central range of mountains. The Malay Annals notice Tringano as being under the Malay Government of Malacca, and the Eastern boundary of Sultan Mahomed Shah's territory, but it does not appear in those times to have possessed a separate Chief or Raja. In 1585 however, the Portuguese mention a King of *Tringale* as assisting in the defence of Johore. In 1689 Kämpfer on his route to Siam touched on the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula at Buse or Basut, which he says, the inhabitants called *Terchanu*, most probably meaning that that place was, as it now is, a part of the territory of Tringano. In 1708 the chief of Tringano, as we have before seen, was a deposed King of Johore, who was afterwards, in 1709, disturbed by his rebellious subjects and by their allies the Bugis, as a protection against whom he was extremely anxious; Captain Hamilton relates, that the English should form a Settlement in his dominions, an offer to which purpose he also made to the Dutch at Malacca, and to the King of France in a letter forwarded by a French ship which happened to touch at Tringano. Intimate relations always subsisted between the Dutch Govern-

ment at Malacca and Tringano, the Chief of which in 1783 complied with an application which the Dutch Government of Malacca made to him for assistance in its war with the Bugis. In 1778 Mr. Chapman while proceeding as Envoy to Cochin China touched at Tringano, when the brother of the then King (the King himself being absent) spoke to him concerning the Company's establishing a Factory at Tringano, a proposal which Mr. Chapman afterwards heard has been sent in a letter to the Supreme Government. Mr. Chapman observes, "This complaisance arises from the King's Apprehensions of an hostile visit from the King of Rhio, and from a desire of extending his territories by means of the Company's assistance. If it were thought worth while to settle in any part of the Peninsula of Malacca, a more eligible situation than Tringano might be found. Some months in the year this is a dangerous lee shore and inaccessible to shipping." In 1787 and several following years, the Sultan being threatened by the Siamese, who summoned him to do personal homage to the King of Siam, and made a requisition for 100 pieces of cannon, repeatedly renewed his application to the British Government to form a Settlement in his Dominions.

The Mission to Siam touched at Tringano on its way to Bangkok, as well as on its return. The Sultan then reigning, named Ahmud, was Grandson to Sultan Mansur Riayat Shah who had offered a settlement to the British Government. He was described to the Mission as having, about 18 years ago, succeeded his father Zenalabden, who had reigned only six years, and during whose time Kelantan, over which their grandfather had placed a relation of his own, threw off its dependence. Zenalabden was engaged in constant wars with Kelantan, which at length turned to Siam for protection against Tringano. Sultan Ahmud was also described as a weak, infirm chief, during whose time Tringano had declined greatly in population and

cultivation, almost all the Chinese and a great portion of the other inhabitants having emigrated to Kelantan. About 3000 peouls of pepper, 1200 peculs of tin from some mines at Daon and Kamamang, and a very large quantity of coarse sugar, manufactured from the cocoanut, with some coffee which has of late been very successfully cultivated were said to form the present exports of Tringano; much of the trade of which with Borneo and other parts has been transferred to Singapore. The population was estimated at only 10 or 12,000 souls, and declared to be dependent on the Siamese ports to the northward for their principal supply of grain.

Kelantan is noticed in the Malay Annals as being a more powerful country than Patani in the time of Sultan Mahomed Shah, who ascended the throne of Malacca about the year 1477, and who attacked Kelantan for refusing to do homage to him. The Chief of Kelantan is said at that time to have been Sultan Secunder Shah, the founder of Malacca, but the names of his children appear to have been Siamese, Orang Kanung (!)-Chao-fa and Chao-buak. In 1542 the Portuguese appear to have attacked some trading vessels lying in the river of Kelantan, and little further can be discovered respecting this territory until a very recent date. It is melancholy however to observe, that this State is the only one on the Malay Peninsula which has improved and increased in importance since its acquaintance with Europeans, and this result has been owing entirely to the discovery of some valuable gold mines which have attracted to Kelantan a large Colony of Chinese and many of the inhabitants of Tringano. The present limits of this territory are said to lie between Basut in Lat. 5° 40″ and the River Sai or a little to the Southward in about Lat. 6° 20″ on the coast, bounded to the west by some of the interior Patani Chieftainships. It produces a large quantity of pepper and gold besides tin, and its population is

said to be much greater than that of Tringano. Its present Chief is said to be in no way connected with the Royal family of Tringano. In consequence of a civil war having arisen between him and his brother, his territory is in a very divided and distracted state, and many Siamese have established their residence and influence in the country. In the estimate made in March 1801 by one of the first Commercial Houses in Europe of the quantities of pepper to be obtained in the Indian Archipelago, it is stated "at Tringano and Kelantan, belonging to a Malayan Prince, may be had about 2000 Tons per annum. The Europe Portuguese ships often call at these ports on their way to China."

Tringano is under the Siamese Governor of Singora, and Kelantan under the Rajah of Ligor, through which Chiefs they respectively transmit to Siam the triennial token of inferiority. The past year was the appointed time for most of the Malay States to send the Boonga Mas to Siam, and the Mission saw at Bangkok the Messengers from Tringano and some of the Patani States. In the year 1787 when the Sultan of Johore and Pahang retired from Rhio to Tringano, he styled the Sultan of the latter place the Chief of his family and stated that he committed his interests to the care of that Prince. The claims of superiority on the part of Siam over Tringano were a consequence of Tringano being a portion of Johore, and the first modern Chief of it a Sultan of Johore, who had before transmitted the *Boonga Mas* to Siam. Sultan Mansur Riayut Shah of Tringano, in his correspondence with Mr. Light between the years 1787 and 1792, admitted this ground of right on the part of Siam, but resisted the King of Siam's claim of personal homage, declaring that "from the beginning of time through all generations" the King of Johore never did personal homage, but only sent complimentary messages and the *Boonga Mas*. At the time of Sultan Mansur Riayut Shah Kelantan was a

dependency of that State, although it does not appear whether that Monarch obtained such possession by conquest.* Calantan threw off its yoke about 20 or 25 years ago, upon some change of dynasty and appealed to Siam for protection, an act of which it has since had cause to repent, having of late often solicited a connection with the British Government. Before the late Mission visited Tringano and Kelantan could be protected against Siam* without any inconvenience or danger of collision with that Court by the British Government entering into offensive and defensive alliances with these States. But subsequent information convinced the Mission that Siam is in regular communication with these States, and that a strong party in her interests exists in both of them; that the Siamese Ministers place a high value upon this connexion of Siam with those States, and that the British Government could not engage to take them under its protection, without being involved in the petty disputes between them, and in collision sooner or later with Siam, some of the Chiefs or subjects of which kingdom would still contrive to carry on intrigues with the inhabitants of those Malay States. The Mission found, that the Chiefs of both Tringano and Kelantan had accepted Siamese titles, and that the present Government of Tringano feels some interest in the safety of Siam may be inferred from its having sent up to Bangkok, with so much expedition, and by an express boat, the absurd intelligence which had been brought to Tringano by a native vessel just before the arrival there of the Mission, of an English expedition equipping at Singapore against Siam. Many of the Chief persons of Tringano spoke in contempt of the meek and inactive disposition of their Chief who had permitted their neighbours at Kelantan to enjoy so long a repose.

* Note.—Horsburgh describes Kelantan as being under the Government of Tringano.

(sic.) There seems to be an omission here.

The Mission however endeavoured, in pursuance of the wishes of the Government of Prince of Wales

Island, to engage the Siamese Court expressly to withdraw its pretensions over Tringano and Kelantan, and the Envoy repeatedly declared his belief that the British Government would not permit any forcible interference with those States on the part of Siam. But the Siamese Ministers refused to relinquish their pretensions, or even to enter into any engagement against the Siamese molesting those States on the ground that the knowledge of such an engagement would immediately incite Tringano to attack Kelantan, from which nothing but the awe of Siam withheld her. After much unprofitable discussion on this point which was repeatedly urged on the Court of Siam, the Envoy finding from his instructions that the Supreme Government was not prepared to undertake the duty of affording to Tringano and Kelantan complete protection against Siam, drafted and proposed to the Siamese Ministers the 12th Article of the Treaty. The Envoy conceived that the preservation of British trade and intercourse with Tringano and Kelantan was the only ground upon which it could ever be the policy of the British Government to interfere in their favor, and that it would be impossible for the Siamese to molest the Governments of those States without interrupting or obstructing our trade and intercourse, a procedure against which that Article of the Treaty distinctly and carefully bound Siam. The Siamese Ministers did not in the first instance admit the necessity of any such article, stating that the trade and intercourse of British Subjects were already sufficiently protected by the other articles of the Treaty, which engaged " all places and countries subject to the Siamese," but the Envoy declared that the British Government could not, and would not allow Tringano and Kelantan to be considered as subject to Siam in the same manner as her provinces of Ligor and Singora, and that a specific provision against the undefined pretensions of Siam over those States was indispensable.

The Siamese Ministers believed that the British Government had resolved upon occupying the whole Malay Peninsula and shortly after the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, they deputed an Agent to Kelantan and Tringano ostensibly for the purpose of procuring some Guns but with the real object of keeping those States firm in their engagements with Siam. As the 12th Article contained a pledge on our part not to take forcible possession of those States the Siam negotiators were induced to acquiesce in it. The Envoy, by whom this Article was not only drafted but translated into the Siamese language conceived that the terms of it would not preclude the British Government from exercising hereafter at any time that its policy or interests might require it, the right of direct treaty and negotiation with Tringano and Kelantan, and the right of opposing all forcible interference with those States on the part of Siam, and some of the principal men of Tringano, to whom the Article was afterwards shown considered it as extremely advantageous to their country. The article does not still appear to the Envoy to be worded in precisely the terms which his situation required. It does not commit the Supreme Government to ulterior procedures, which that authority had expressly deprecated, but leaves the British Government at full liberty either to wait and interfere hereafter, whenever the Siamese encroachments upon Tringano and Kelantan shall render it indispensably necessary, or to ratify the Article with an immediate declaration of its intention to afford complete protection to Tringano and Kelantan against Siam. But it is necessary to mention, that the Government of Prince of Wales Island is disposed to put a more unfavorable construction upon this Article conceiving it as it stands, to bar at once our right of opposing all forcible interference of the Siamese with Tringano and Kelantan. The Siamese Ministers did not appear to put such a construction upon it, although they certainly preferred the terms of

it to one directed more openly against their pride and consequence, because these terms appeared to them not to authorize us to cut off all communication between Siam and Tringano and Kelantan, or to prevent the transmission to it of the customary Boonga Mas, measures which the Envoy had no authority to insist upon, and no prospect of effecting without involving the British Government in all those consequences which have before been pointed out as the most probable result of our taking the whole of the Malay States under our direct protection.

The Mission found the Sultan of Tringano in the last stage of consumption and learnt that His Highness intended to bequeath his Crown to a younger Son, in preference to the Elder, who was described as a bold turbulent character, addicted to piracy, and who was certainly of a most unprepossessing appearance. The Sultan is since dead, and his brother the Rajah Muda has assumed the Government, setting aside the pretensions of both his nephews. It is not probable that the elder nephew will readily relinquish his claims, and whether the struggle which will now take place, shall be left to be determined by Siam, to which one party will certainly appeal, or obtain the interference of the British Government is a question that would have demanded immediate solution, had the terms of the 12th Article of the Treaty committed the Supreme Government to ulterior procedures.

The present State of Salengore, as was before mentioned, was established by a colony of Bugis from Rhio. The Malay Annals notice a Chief of Salengore, who was subject to the Malay Government of Malacca, but who does not however appear to have been acknowledged as a Rajah. In the time of Captain Hamilton Salengore and Parcelar, which is now within the territory of Malacca, were little frequented by Europeans, although noted for producing

great quantities of tin, in consequence of the treacherous character of the inhabitants. Shortly after the failure of the siege of Malacca which the Bugis from Rhio and Salengore undertook in 1783, the Dutch visited the latter place and established some posts in it. The Chief had fled to Pahang, but in July 1785 he returned and drove out the Dutch and applied to the British Government to form a Settlement in his Territory as a means of ensuring him future protection against the Dutch. In 1786 however he entered into an accommodation with the Dutch, and on the 29th July of that year concluded a Treaty with them acknowledging his country and all its dependencies to belong to the Dutch Company and to be given by them to him. The present limits of Salengore are said to lie between the River Burman in about Lat: 3° 45″ and the River Lingi situate a few miles to the Northward of Malacca. Some profitable tin mines have lately been discovered in this territory at a place named Lukut, a little to the Northward of Cape Rachado. But this State is reckoned as the least considerable of the Malayan States in resources and population, and the habits and character of the existing inhabitants are not better than those of the time of Captain Hamilton. Mr. Crawfurd observes that of all the Malayan States on the Peninsula, Salengore labours under the heaviest *mala fama* on the score of piracy, man stealing, manslaughter and similar peccadillos of the code of Malay morals. There are strong suspicions also that the Government of Salengore is connected with the numerous piratical fleets which have long infested the Straits of Malacca in* its neighbourhood, and particularly with a party of Illanon pirates from Mindano, who have established themselves in the Straits.

* ? and

Perak is noticed in the Malay Annals as a part of the Malay Government of Malacca, and in the time of Sultan Muzaffur Shah, who ascended the throne of

Malacca in 1334, a son of his Bindahara was named Tuan Perak, and was appointed Chief of Calang, a territory situate to the southward of Salengore, and now under that State. Little further is known respecting the early history of Perak, excepting that a native of that State, Mansur Shah, succeeded in the year 1567, by what means it does not appear, to have invited the Achinese to make more frequent and eager attacks upon the Malay Peninsula. In 1613 a King of Acheen laid waste Perak, which continued to transmit to him the Boonga Mas until the year 1628, when the Portuguese having broken the power of Acheen, the King of Perak sent an embassy to the Portuguese Government of Malacca, engaging in future to pay to it the tribute which he had before paid to Acheen. This tributary relation does not appear to have been transferred with the Conquest of Malacca to the Dutch, whose factory at Perak is said by Captain Hamilton to have been cut off and declared in an official account by themselves to have been removed at the same time that they withdrew from Acheen, under the jurisdiction of which, they then describe Perak to be. About the year 1664 a Dutch voyager visited Perak, the factory at which he mentions as having been lately abandoned, in consequence of some differences occurring between the Dutch officers and the inhabitants of the Country. He further describes Pulo Dinding, an island off the coast of Perak, as being then uninhabited, but containing most excellent water and lofty trees, on the branches of which he took abundance of oysters. The differences between the Chief of Perak and the Dutch were then accommodated by the former sending an Envoy to Malacca, and the Dutch appear shortly after to have established a factory in Pulo Dinding, so called by them and by all early voyagers, from its lying at the mouth of a river of that name, but the Malays know it by the name of Pulo Pankour. In 1688, Dampier visited the Dutch Settlement at this place, of which he gives a very interest-

ing account, showing however that at that time the differences between the Dutch and Perak had been renewed. He describes the inhabitants of Perak as bold and treacherous: and Captain Hamilton also gives a very unfavorable account of their character, stating "The people are untractable and rebellious and the Government anarchical. The country produces more tin than any in India, but the inhabitants are so treacherous, faithless and bloody, that no European nation can keep factories there with safety. The Dutch tried it once, and the first year had their factory cut off. They then settled on Pulo Dinding, an island at the mouth of the River Perak, but about the year 1690 that factory was also cut off." The Dutch must have re-established their factory at Pulo Pankour, as among the ruins of their fort on that island an inscription is said to be still visible bearing date 1743. But they appear to have again withdrawn, and in 1783 Captain Forrest found the Chief of Perak uneasy at the thoughts of the Dutch returning to his country. In 1786 the Dutch Government of Malacca bound the Chief of Perak as well as the Chief of Salengore by Treaty establishing a factory up the river at a place named Tanjong Putus, and engaging the Chief to deliver to them all the tin produced in the territory, at the rate of 10 Dollars per pecul. In 1795, about the time that Malacca was occupied by the British Government, a small force under Lieutenant Macalister and Lord Camelford, then a Lieutenant in the Navy, proceeded from Prince of Wales Island and removed the Dutch from their factory.

The present limits of Perak extend from the river Burnam in Lat. 3° 45′ to the River Crean in Lat. 5° 10′ which last is also the boundary of the territory ceded by the King of Queda in 1802 to the Government of Prince of Wales Island. The character of the existing inhabitants of Perak is by no means better than that given of their ancestors and during the last

25 years the country has been ruined and depopulated by misgovernment, disputes with Salengore, intestine wars and by the interference of Queda. Although containing the most productive tin mines in the whole Peninsula, and yielding at one time 9000 peculs per annum, this territory now exports but a comparatively small quantity, while the inhabitants are subject to the greatest distress and famine from the neglect of cultivation. In 1801 Sultan Mansur Shah the Second ascended the throne of Perak, and his correspondence with the Government of Prince of Wales Island, as well as his general conduct, shews him to have laboured under considerable derangement of intellect. In 1806 his neighbour the Chief of Salengore took possession of the territory and prohibited all intercourse between it and Prince of Wales Island. After the Salengore Chief retired, the country continued to be distracted with internal disturbances until 1818 when the troops of Queda occupied it in obedience to the orders of the Siamese Government which had directed the King of Queda in 1813 to bring Perak under the subjection of Siam and to enforce the transmission of the Boonga Mas from the Chief of Perak to the King of Siam. His Highness of Queda had appealed for advice to the Government of Prince of Wales Island, expressing his unwillingness to attack Perak, but declaring that the claims and requisition of Siam were founded upon the fact of Perak having received a Chief from the ancient royal family of Siam, and of the Chiefs of Perak having tendered the Boonga Mas to Siam until the Burmese invasion and conquest of that kingdom in 1765. Without referring to the circumstance of Perak having for many years rendered the Boonga Mas to Acheen, of its having placed itself at one time under the Portuguese Government at Malacca, and of its having been connected by treaty as a Vassal to the Dutch until the year 1795 when the factory of that nation was removed by a party from Prince of Wales Island, the Govern-

ment of Prince of Wales Island not only credited the King of Queda's improbable tale of a right on the part of Siam over Perak but acted upon it, advising the Chief of Perak to submit to Siam and aiding the King of Queda with the Munitions of War for the purpose of subduing Perak. The Chief of Perak declined the advice tendered to him by the Government of Prince of Wales Island and affirmed very truly as it has since appeared, that there was not a single instance of Perak rendering the Boonga Mas to Siam, and that he would risk every thing rather than submit to such an unfounded and unjustifiable aggression on the part of Siam. The troops of Perak invaded Queda and after a long warfare, in which the resources of Queda were exhausted, and the country of Perak destroyed, the Raja of Perak and his adherents were taken in the year 1818, and a regency appointed, by which the Boonga Mas was transmitted to Siam through Queda. The Rajah soon after died, and his son Sultan Tajudin succeeded under the direction of Queda, until the year 1821, when the Rajah of Ligor having taken possession of Queda sent a fleet of Boats and a party of Siamese through the harbour of Prince of Wales Island to occupy Perak. In the following year the old chief of Salengore, Rajah Ibrahim, fearing the Siamese, and naturally unwilling to admit of the approach of a conquering and formidable power, made a sudden attack upon the Siamese detachment at Perak, drove them out taking possession of 40 boats with other property belonging to them, and placing his nephew Tuanku Hussein at the mouth of the Perak River, to control the Government and trade of the country and prevent the return of the Siamese. The preparations which the Raja of Ligor made last year were designed for the purpose of driving out Tuanku Hussein from Perak, and of attacking Salengore, in retaliation for the conduct of its Chief to the Siamese at Perak. The Treaty which Captain Burney concluded on the 31st July with His Highness of Ligor, engaged the Rajah

not to send any armament to Perak or Salengore, upon condition that the Government of Prince of Wales Island would remove Tuanku Hussein from Perak and prevent Salengore from all further interference with that State, establish a proper boundary between the two States and negotiate for the payment of 2000 Dollars on the part of the Chief of Salengore to the Raja of Ligore in compensation for the loss sustained by the Siamese Chief and his followers in the attack of the Siamese detachment at Perak in 1822. The Agent of the Government of Prince of Wales Island succeeded in procuring the consent of the Chief of Salengore to all these points excepting the payment of the 2000 Dollars, to any proposition for which, the Bugis Chief resolutely refused to hearken, although the arrangement was manifestly to his advantage, as his means were totally inadequate to resist an attack from the Rajah of Ligor.

It should before have been mentioned that in July and August 1818, with a view of meeting the presumed policy of the Netherlands, who were about to re-occupy Malacca, the late Colonel Bannerman negotiated Commercial Treaties with the Chiefs of Perak and Salengore, engaging them not to grant to any person a monopoly of any article of trade the produce of their territories, and to extend to British Subjects all the privileges and advantages which might hereafter be granted at any time to the Subjects of the most favored nations. In July 1819 the Netherlands Government of Malacca notwithstanding, replaced its former relations with Salengore, and proposed to renew also the old Treaty with the Chief of Perak, but the Government of Java disapproved of these measures, and cancelled the Treaty which had been concluded with Salengore.

The Mission was surprised to find that the claim of Siam over Perak was not explained by the Siamese

Ministers to rest upon any such improbable tale as that which the King of Queda had related to the Government of Prince of Wales Island in 1814, nor upon any argument that Perak was anciently a portion of the territory of Malacca and Johore, which had formerly rendered such token of inferiority to Siam, but upon the fact that the old chief of Perak had voluntarily applied to place himself under the protection of Siam, and that the reigning Chief of Perak had deputed Envoys to the Rajah of Ligore, entreating him to send a force to Perak for the purpose of removing Tuanku Hussein from the mouth of the Perak River, and of relieving Perak from the oppression of its neighbour Salengore. The fact of the old Chief of Perak having tendered any such submission was manifestly false, as he was well known to have preferred losing his Crown, but the fact of the present Chief of Perak having applied to the Rajah of Ligor for protection was unfortunately too true, as at the time Captain Burney concluded the Treaty of the 31st July with the Rajah of Ligor, he met at Queda a Nephew of the Chief of Perak and one of his Orang Caya or Nobles, who declared that they had been deputed for this purpose, and that the Chief of Perak had not solicited the aid of the Siamese until after he had made an unsuccessful application to the Government of Prince of Wales Island against the tyranny of Salengore. The Envoy satisfied the Siamese Ministers of the incorrectness of the account brought to them of the old Chief of Perak having sought the protection of Siam, but he could not persuade them that the present Chief of Perak had signified to the Agent from the Government of Prince of Wales Island, who visited him last year, that he had no desire of forming a connection with the Siamese. The Ministers called upon the Envoy to produce any public instrument on the part of that Chief contradicting the declarations made to the Rajah of Ligor by the Perak Envoys in Captain Burney's

presence, as well as those made by some other Perak Chiefs who had visited the Siamese, and the Ministers apprehended, that it was the intention of the British Government to take possession of Perak. After much protracted discussion the Provisions of the 14th Article of the Treaty were agreed to, confirming the preliminary engagement made with the Rajah of Ligor, that no Siamese armament shall proceed to, or settle at Perak, declaring the Chief of Perak to be independent, and engaging in addition, as a means of removing the suspicions of the Siamese as to the cause of our interference in favor of Perak that the British Government shall not molest Perak, or prevent the Chief from maintaining a friendly correspondence with the Siamese.

There is strong reason for believing that some of the subordinate Chiefs of Perak had privately before 1814, invited the interference of the Siamese Governors of Ligor and Singora, against the misgovernment of the old Raja of Perak, and that at the present moment these subordinate Chiefs are divided into two parties; the weaker party, opposed to the Salengore interests and aware of its weakness, has called in the interference of the Raja of Ligor, without the aid of some of whose followers it has no chance of obtaining its own ends in the Government of Perak. Some weeks after the Mission had sailed from Prince of Wales Island, the Government of Prince of Wales Island discovered that the Siamese Escort which returned with the Perak Envoys upon receiving the intelligence at Bangkok, remonstrated with the Raja of Ligor upon the continuance of these Siamese in Perak and an [ambassador] was sent down from Bangkok immediately after the departure of the Mission, directing those Siamese to withdraw. This measure holds out some hope that the Rajah of Ligor will respect the provisions of the 14th Article of the Treaty, although to preclude all chance of future interference

on the part of Siam over Perak, a public instrument should be obtained from the Chief of Perak expressing his desire of discontinuing all connection with Siam, an instrument which he will be most happy to give upon receiving a promise of our protection against Salengore. Capt. Low has been deputed to Perak in order to obtain such an instrument.

There is no instance of Salengore having ever rendered the Boonga Mas to Siam, nor did the Siamese Ministers advance any claim to this effect. The Mission to Siam obtained confirmation of the independence of Salengore, and the 14th Article of the Treaty engages that that state shall not be allowed to attack or molest Perak and that the Siamese shall not go and attack and disturb that state. It is evidently the interest of the British Government not to allow Salengore to be over run by the Siamese, even upon the condition of preventing that State from restricting and disturbing the trade and government of its weaker neighbour, Perak. The old Chief of Salengore died very recently, and the Government of Prince of Wales Island do not consider it necessary to call upon his Son and Successor for the compensation stipulated to be paid to the Rajah of Ligor. The principal argument used by the Mission at Bangkok for preventing Siamese interference with Perak and Salengore was founded upon [the] cession of Malacca to the British Government, a circumstance from which Captain Burney had before successfully argued against the Raja of Ligor detaching any of his armament to those States. The Siamese Ministers were distinctly told, that the recent re-occupation of Malacca by us, naturally brought the British Government into some degree of political relation with Perak and Salengore; between which state and the Government of Malacca there always existed a close alliance. That any hositilities on the part of Siam against those States could not possibly be regarded with indifference by

us, as we knew the inevitable consequence would be to drive the inhabitants forth into a life of plunder and piracy, and to destroy altogether the trade and intercourse now subsisting between them and Prince of Wales Island and Malacca that any attempt at extension of conquest in that direction by Siam would certainly disturb the harmony subsisting between the British and Siamese nations. That the British Government however has no intention of occupying those States, or of engrossing their trade in the same manner as the Dutch Government had practised but that it is resolved upon supporting and protecting the independence of their Governments so far as may be essential to the commercial prosperity of the British Settlements of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore. The King of Siam and a majority of the Court of Siam are well convinced of the power of the British Government to execute this determination, and they were more ready to relinquish their designs against Perak and Salengore, after observing that it was not our intention to prevent their continued occupation of Queda. The extensive plan of conquest planned by the Wangna has accordingly been checked, and although we may not make him retreat from Queda, he is satisfied of your means and intention of preventing his advance to the southward, and thus, one of the most important objects connected with the Malay Peninsula, and desired for so many years by the British Government to prevent the extension of Siamese conquest to the vicinity of Malacca, has been now, it is hoped, quietly and satisfactorily accomplished.

As a means of checking the resort of pirates among the numerous creeks and rivers in the territory of Perak and of re-establishing the trade and prosperity of that country as well as of watching and supporting its independence against any future attempts on the part of either Salengore or the Siamese, a small

post might be judiciously placed at Pulo Pankour. The Government of Prince of Wales Island received the sanction of the Supreme Government in the year 1819 to settle a post on this Island, but the King of Queda, under whose authority Perak then was, declined to grant us liberty to occupy it. No such difficulty will be made by the present Chief of Perak, and it must not be concealed that his weak and imbecile character and the factious disposition of many of his Chiefs will offer great inducements to both Salengore and the Siamese to interfere with his Government. For an account of the situation and capabilities of Pulo Pankour reference may be made to the early accounts given by Gautier Schouten and Dampier, as well as to certain recent accounts given by some of the Officers of the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

Queda is the only Malay State for which the Siamese have a distinct name, Mooung Srai, or Country of Srai. The Malay name is Kedah which is unknown to the Siamese, and which the early Portuguese wrote Queda, a word adopted by us without reference to our different pronunciation. The high mountain called by European Navigators Queda Peak, is known to the Malays by the name of Jerai, which is probably after the Siamese term Srai. The only mention of this State in the Malay Annals is immediately before the arrival of the Portuguese at Malacca. During the reign of the last King, Sultan Mahomed Shah, a Rajah of Kedah, visited Malacca and applied for the Ensigns of Royalty, the Noubut, the granting of which on the part of the Sovereign of Malacca is a proof that the Chief of Queda must have been subordinate to Malacca, and then first recognised as a Raja. After the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese, the Chief of Queda appears to have maintained intimate correspondence with the expelled Malay Government, and in 1607 the Royal families of

Pahang and Queda were reported to be nearly connected by marriage. At that period the Dutch also found a frequent and easy intercourse overland between Queda and Patani, and through their intrigues both these States were embroiled with the Portuguese Government [of] Malacca. The Portuguese residents at Patani were sent back to Malacca across the country viâ Queda, and those resident at Queda were also forcibly expelled, which proceedings led to the Portuguese reprisals on Patani, and their attack and destruction of Queda and Purlis in 1614. The limits of Queda have of late years extended from the River Krean in Lat. 5° 10″ to the river Oopih near Teluk-lawus or Telavase in Lat. 7° 5″ on the coast while the great central range of mountains separated this state from the territories of Merdelong, Singora and Patani, towards which last Pulai was the frontier town to the South East. In former times the Northern boundary of Queda is said to have reached so far as the river Trang—in Lat. 7° 15″ and indeed upon the conquest of Siam by the Burmese in 1765, the Malays under the Laxamana of Queda possessed themselves for some time of the Island of Junkceylon, whence they were afterwards driven out by the inhabitants. Large quantities of tin and pepper were obtained at Queda by the early Portuguese and Dutch, but of late years the exports have been confined almost exclusively to poultry and paddy, of which last at least 2000 coyans per annum were suplied to Prince of Wales Island. The conquest of Queda by the King of Acheen in 1619, and the protection which she sought from Siam, as well as the nature of the relation subsisting between that kingdom and Queda, as far as it can be traced from native historians and the accounts of early European travellers and voyagers down to the year 1783 have been before noticed.

It is said at Prince of Wales Island, that the King

ot Queda possessed various historical records which he lost upon the invasion of the Siamese in 1821, and that the history of the Chiefs of Queda cannot now be satisfactorily traced beyond the grandfather of the present Chief. But in 1813, when this Chief applied to the Government of Prince of Wales Island for advice on the subject of the order which he had received to attack Perak, he deputed two of his principal officers as Vakeels who communicated to that Government the following account of the origin and nature of the relations subsisting between Siam and the reigning family of Queda.

"The present Chief of Queda professes himself to be descended from a collateral branch of the family which held the Siamese throne immediately antecedent to the period of about 45 or 50 years back. At that time his relation, the then reigning king, being engaged in a war with the Burmans, his country was subdued and himself taken prisoner. The conquerors bestowed the country on a Burman, who had not however enjoyed his newly acquired dignity above a few months, when the Siamese expelled him and chose as his successor a native Siamese named Peeata (Phya Tac). This Peeata proving a tyrannical king, ungrateful for the partiality of his countrymen, he too was after a few years cut off by an insurrection of his subjects, and the vacant throne was seized by one of the nobles named Chikree (Chak-Kri) who transmitted it to his son, the present King of Siam.

In the time of Peeata was first advanced the claim to the homage of Queda, which he, and after him his successors on the throne of Siam, alleged to have been implied by the transmission of the Boonga Mas or Golden Flower, a custom which the Chiefs of Queda admit to be of very remote origin, denying however, that it had ever been *exacted* as a *right* during the dynasty of their own kindred, or that it

was at any time regarded as a badge of subordination. On the contrary, it is contended, that this gift (which consists of two trees, one of gold, the other of silver both bearing golden blossoms or flowers, together with other articles valuing in all about 800 or 1000 Dollars) was always perfectly spontaneous on their part. That it originated on the birth of an heir to the first of the ancient race, who was elder brother to the then reigning Raja of Queda, and was designed, not as an offering to the King his brother, but to the infant Prince. That it continued afterwards to be transmitted on the occasion of every addition to the Royal family, who however no more regarded it as a token of acknowledged subjection or dependence than the presents of an equal value, which are yet sent to Queda in return, were considered as expressive of an admitted inferiority on the part of Siam.

But unreasonable and unfounded in justice or precedent as this requisition was esteemed by the Raja of Queda (the present Chief's grandfather) especially as proceeding from a comparatively speaking low-born usurper, it was considered a measure of indispensable policy on his part, to appease so powerful a neighbour, at what appeared then a cheap rate, rather than by resistance to involve himself and country in inevitable ruin. He therefore prudently judged it expedient to acquiesce in the unjust demand of the new King and the *Boonga Mas* has hitherto been sent as prescribed to him, once every three years, thus giving a sanction to the alleged right to his fealty, and further sanctioning the still more grievous exactions to which his successors (but particularly the present Raja) became subject as vassals of Siam. The demands for Military and other services, have of late years become unusually frequent and severe,—about four years ago he was compelled to equip and join his forces to those of Siam in an attack upon Patani, a Malay State on the eastern coast

of the Peninsula, two years afterwards he was summoned to the defence of Junkceylon when attacked by the Burmans, and now he is commanded to join in the subjugation of Perak. But such services, though a sufficiently vexatious waste of his own proper means, for the attainment of subjects in which he has no interest, he esteems a trivial grievance in comparison with the enormous expense attending the supply of the troops of his superior, and not his troops only, but such of his other subjects as choose to honor Queda with their occasional presence, with arms, ammunition, clothing, Provisions, conveyance, by sea or land, &c. as their exigencies may require. The charges thus incurred are stated by the Vakeels to have been extremely burthensome of late, and it is in the dread of such a demand on his slender resources, and to avert if possible such a visitation as the passage of a Siamese Army to Perak would prove, that their master has now again addressed the British Government whose power, he fondly hopes, may be some day exerted to rescue him from this insupportable state of Vassalage."

The above account admits the fact of a very early connection subsisting between Siam and Queda, although, as was before pointed out, the manner in which it states the custom of sending the Boonga Mas originated is improbable, and as the King of Siam, whom the Burmese carried away as prisoner in 1765 was the Priest-King, Chaool Padou, it is difficult to believe that the Grandfather of the present Chief of Queda, a Moslem, was so nearly related to him. But the Queda *Vakeels* had an object to gain, to persuade the British Government to interfere in favor of their master. It was necessary however to cite the above account, as it induced the Governor General in Council to declare that "it left little room to doubt the dependent nature of the relation subsisting between the States of Queda and Siam, and that whatever might have been the origin of the periodical tokens of

submission given by the former, there appeared to be no ground for encouraging the King of Queda to renounce his Vassalage to the State of Siam, if indeed any measures directed to that end could be justifiable under the relation existing between that State and the British Government." Captain Forrest visited Queda between the years 1782 and 1784, at which period the King's Merchant and Minister was a native of the coast of Coromandel, who gave shelter and protection to some miscreants who had out off an English vessel and murdered all the Europeans in it. But some time before that date, shortly after Phya Tac had made Queda recognise the superiority of Siam, the Government of Fort St. George attempted to establish a Settlement at Queda, to which the Honble Mr. Monckton was deputed. No accounts of the proceedings of that gentleman are to be found among the records of the Government of Prince of Wales Island, excepting in a letter addressed to the Supreme Government by Mr. James Scott from Junkceylon in October 1785, in which it is stated that the old King of Queda was happy to dissolve the connection. This old King was the Grandfather of the present King of Queda, and he died in 1778. During his reign he was disturbed by the misconduct and rebellions of his brothers and nephews, who took umbrage at his having nominated an illegitimate son by a slave girl to be his successor, and some of whom brought up the Bugis from Salengore to attack and burn Queda and Allistar in the year 1770. This illegitimate son, named Sultan Abdulla Mahkurram Shah, eight years after he had ascended the throne, acceded to Mr. Light's application for a cession to the British Government of Prince of Wales Island. That the Chief of Queda sought a connection with the British Government particularly as a means of protection, the conditions which he annexed to the cession of Prince of Wales Island sufficiently establish. Some of the Officers of the Government of Prince of Wales Island maintain, that it was protection against the

Siamese, which the Chief was more especially anxious to obtain. It was in the time of the father of Sultan Abdullah that the Siamese had visited Queda, and yet that old Chief appears to have rejoiced at the departure of the English Agent sent to him, and a report made by Mr. Light to the Supreme Government at the time Prince of Wales Island was ceded declares that the then King of Queda apprehended some attack from the Dutch Government of Malacca, which had just overcome Rhio, Perak and Salengore. Mr. Light states: "The Dutch at the beginning of this War (with the Bugis) wrote to the Rajas of Tringano and Queda for assistance, the former joined but the latter declined excusing himself on account of a war in Patani. This will account for the King of Tringano's reception of your letter and for the King of Queda's anxious desire to have the Honble. Company for his protector." Whatever might have been the intention of Sultan Abdullah in ceding Prince of Wales Island, no doubt can be entertained after perusing the replies which the Supreme Government made to his demands, that that authority used much precaution to avoid involving itself in the political concerns of Queda. The 1st, 3rd, and 6th Articles of the conditions required by the King of Queda and the answers made to them by the Governor General in Council, are as follows.

CONDITIONS required by the King of Queda.	REPLIES of the Governor General and Council to the King of Queda's demands.
ARTICLE 1st.	
That the Honble. Company shall be guardian of the seas, and whatever enemy may come to attack the King shall be an enemy to the Honble. Com-	This Government will always keep an armed vessel stationed to guard the island of Pinang and the coast adjacent belonging to the King of Queda

pany and the expenses shall be borne by the Honble. Company.

ARTICLE 3rd.

The Articles opium, tin and rattans being part of our revenue are prohibited and Qualla Mooda, Pry and Krean, places where these articles are procured, being so near to Pinang, that when the Honble. Company's Resident remains there, this prohibition will be constantly broke thro', therefore it should end, and the Govr. Genl. allow us our profits on these articles viz. 30,000 Spanish Dollars every year,

The Governor General and Council on the part of the English East India Company, will take care that the King of Queda shall not be a sufferer by an English Settlement being formed in the Island of Pinang.

ARTICLE 6th.

If any enemy come to attack us by land, and we require assistance from the Honble. Company of men, arms or ammunition, the Honble. Company will supply us at our expense.

This article will be referred for the orders of the English East India Company together with such parts of the King of Queda's requests as cannot be complied with previous to their consent being obtained.

The Minute of the then Governor General in noticing the King of Queda's terms also observed: "The ostensible object of the King himself in making

the grant (of Penang) originated in the idea of supporting his own independence by the protection of the English, and his attachment to us will either be strengthened or changed into animosity as that protection is granted or withheld. This protection however cannot be effectually given without involving us in disputes with the Burmah or Siamese, the latter of whom are the most powerful." The above replies and observation were a sufficient indication of the desire of the Supreme Government not to enter into any engagement of protecting the King of Queda against the Siamese. But shortly after Mr. Light took possesion of the Island, the King of Siam came over to the Malay Peninsula with a large force, and as we have before seen, after driving out the Burmese from Ligore, summoned the Chiefs of Queda, Patani and Tringano to do personal homage. The King of Queda was now of course anxious to obtain the protection of the British Government against an attack with which he was actually threatened by the Siamese. Mr. Light made repeated applications in his favor to the Supreme Government which at length in January 1788 informed him: "With respect to protecting the King of Queda against the Siamese the Governor General in Council has already decided against any measures that may involve the Company in Military operations against any of the Eastern Princes. It follows of course that any act or promises which may be construed into an obligation to defend the King of Queda are to be avoided. If however Mr. Light can employ the countenance and influence of the Company for the security of the King of Queda consistently with those rules, the Governor General in Council has no objection to his adopting the measure, strictly guarding against any acts or declarations that may involve the honor, credit or troops of the Company." The principles laid down by Lord Cornwallis in the above extract have implicitly guided the conduct of the Supreme Government in all its subsequent rela-

tions and correspondence with Queda, from that date until the present hour notwithstanding the constant solicitations of the Chiefs of Queda and the repeated recommendations of every Governor of Prince of Wales Island that the British Government should engage to employ its troops for the security of Queda against Siam. Mr. Light mentions in a private letter dated 1st Feby. 1787, that the Dutch had thrown as many obstacles as they could in his way, that they had sent an embassy to Queda, that the great men of Queda were averse to the English settling at Prince of Wales Island, and that when he arrived at Queda, the Laxamana and officers raised so may difficulties that he could hardly obtain permission of the King to settle at Prince of Wales Island, but that in order to begin as peaceably as possible he had signed an agreement that he would give the King half of the profits arising from the sales of tin, opium, and rattans until the letters from the Honble. Company should arrive." But we have before seen that the Supreme Government in their answer to the 3rd Article of the King of Queda's conditions declined to make to the King such compensation as he had demanded for the loss of revenue, which he would sustain by a British post being formed at Prince of Wales Island. Mr. Light was therefore very early involved in disputes on this subject with His Highness, who was naturally anxious to keep Mr. Light to his agreement, and who appears even at one time to have complained to the King of Siam against the English. After much discussion and repeated references on the part of Mr. Light, the King of Queda finding that his demand for a "*Settlement*" of this point, and not, as it has been assumed, of the question of affording him protection against the Siamese, remained unadjusted, at length collected a force with the intention of forcibly removing the British Settlement, or at least of establishing himself [at] Prye immediately opposite to it. He was attacked and defeated at that village by a small

party of troops sent over from Prince of Wales Island, and the first regular Treaty between himself and Mr, Light was then concluded on the 1st May 1792. The first Article engaged that the English should pay to him 6,000 Spanish Dollars every year, for as long as they remained in possession of Prince of Wales Island while the 2nd Article pledged him to permit all kinds of provisions required for Prince of Wales Island, ships of war, and the Company's Ships to be bought at Queda without impediment or being subject to any duty. During the latter years of the King's reign he was much vexed by the disputes of his large family of nine sons, each of which aimed to succeed him. He died in 1798 and his brother the Rajah Muda of Purlis set aside the claims of all the children, and assumed the Government, under the title of Sultan Heaoodeen. In 1802 this Chief entered into a new Treaty with the Government of Prince of Wales Island, ceding to it a tract of territory on the coast of Queda, between the rivers Muda and Crean a space of about 28 miles and measuring inland from the seaside 60 orlongs or about 3 miles, which was named Province Wellesley, and for which, the stipend to be paid as long as the English continued in possession of Penang and that ceded territory was raised to 10,000 Dollars per annum. The 3rd Article of this Treaty also engaged the Chief of Queda to permit all kinds of Provisions wanted for Prince of Wales Island, Ships of War and the Company's Ships to be bought at Purlis and Queda, without impediment, or being subject to any duty or custom. Sultan Heaoodeen however was kept in constant disputes with his Nephews whom he was unable to control, each of them laid claim to part of the stipend paid by the British Government and each of them was aspiring to power. It has been supposed that the cession of Province Wellesley was made by Sultan Heaoodeen in order to to obtain the countenance and support of the Government of Prince of Wales Island against his turbulent

nephews. In 1804 however he resigned the Government in favor of his eldest legitimate nephew, Tuanku Pangeran, the present King of Queda, who had just returned from Siam, and now took the title of Sultan Ahmud Tajudin Halim Shah. The history of the King of Queda's visit to Siam and of the resignation made in his favor by Sultan Heaoodeen has not been fully disclosed in the account of the Malay Establishments compiled at Prince of Wales Island, in which it is merely mentioned that Sultan Heaoodeen getting old became weary of conducting the affairs of Government, which he transferred by a "voluntary arrangement and resignation" to his nephew "Tuanku Pangeran," who had some time before proceeded to Siam, where he remained some months to pay his respects to the Emperor and to conciliate his good will. The fact is, Sultan Heaoodeen lived eighteen years after, continuing to exercise some degree of authority at Purlis, and his resignation in favor of Tuanku Pangeran was in consequence of a peremptory order received from the Court of Siam which at the same time appointed Tuanku Ibrahim the Raja Muda. Tuanku Pangeran had joined the Siamese Governor of Singora, who conveyed him to Siam, where he received a Siamese title and regular appointment to relieve his uncle in the government of Queda. It was this secret intrigue on the part of the present Chief of Queda, that made his interest prevail over that of his uncle and numerous brothers, three of whom afterwards, Tuanku Dand, Busnoo and Ibrahim, resisted his authority and were made to submit to it by means of force only. Immediately after the accession of the present Chief of Queda, Sir Robert Farquhar, then Lieut. Governor of Prince of Wales Island, noticed "the conflicting authority at Queda of 5 or 6 brothers and an uncle all equally oppressive and independent", and proposed that the British Government should give such a decided preponderance to Tuanku Pangeran, the young king, of whom report spoke more favorably than of the other Princes, "as

might enable him to curb his brothers and give efficacy to laws, for the security of the ryots." But after learning the manner in which the present Chief of Queda obtained the throne from his uncle whom we had recognised, and whom we had found by the Treaty of 1802 to be extremely well disposed to us, it is difficult to conceive what ground of right or claim Tuanku Pangeran has to look to the British Government for assistance against those who placed him on the throne, against his former friends and supporters, who now charge him with not having fulfilled the terms of his appointment. Without making any further reference to the early connection subsisting between Queda and Siam, it is evident that the manner in which the present Chief appealed to the Siamese, and obtained the ascendancy at Queda established the full right of Siam over his territory, while it is no less true that the dissensions subsisting between him and his brothers who severally carried on intrigues with the neighbouring Siamese Governors invited a constant interference in the affairs of Queda on the part of the Siamese, until they were finally tempted to drive out the Chief and assume the direct occupation of his country.

In consequence, it is to be presumed, of the difference of religion, language and custom between Queda and the neighbouring Siamese Governments, quarrels had often occurred in former times between their Chiefs, and Captain Hamilton notices an instance in which a King of Queda fell at variance with a Chief of Ligor and invaded his territories. Besides the Government of Junkceylon, which has already been mentioned and the southern boundary of which is at a place called Pak-lao, a few miles from the mouth of the Pungah river, there are three other Siamese Governments in the neighbourhood of Queda named by the Malays respectively Ligor, Merdilong and Singora.

The first, Ligor, or as it is called by the Siamese, Lakhon, is the most considerable Government extending from Pak-lao before mentioned to the river Trang on the West Coast, and from Lat. 7° 40″ on the East Coast of the Peninsula. It has often taken advantage of the wars waged between Siam and the great powers of Ava, Laos and Cambodia, to set up as an independent principality. The Malay Annals describe the Chief of Ligor as having attacked the State of Pahang in 1509 by order of the King of Siam, and we have seen the authority of Siam replaced over Ligore by Rajah Api, Phya Tac, and by his successor in 1786. The Dutch early found Ligore to export large supplies of pepper and tin, and established here a factory, which appears to have been withdrawn about the year 1664, and again established, as Hamilton notices it during his voyage to Siam in 1719. It must have been destroyed when Alompra took Ligore in 1759, and some brick foundations said to be its remains were shown to the late Mission to Siam. In addition to tin, some iron, rice, elephants and a species of ebony now form the principal exports of Ligor. On the confines of Merdilong also, a kind of Fustic is produced in great abundance. The present Chief is said to be a posthumous son of Phya Tac, whose widow, left pregnant at his death, was sent as a wife to the former Chief of Ligor. The appearance of the Raja Ligore denotes Chinese extraction, while a younger brother was pointed out to the Mission at Bangkok, as the undoubted offspring of the former Chief of Ligore, being like him of a remarkably dark complexion. The present Chief of Ligor is of the highest Siamese rank, a Chao Pya, and invested with the power of life and death. He is closely connected by marriage with the King and Wangna, the former having married one of his daughters, and the mother of the latter is his niece, and the native Christians at Bangkok always style him the King of Ligore. A Siamese History of Ligor according to Lt.*—mentions

* sic.

a Raja of Queda as one of the tributaries of that state attending a King of Siam there. The communication between Queda and Siam was generally conducted through the Chiefs of Ligor to whom for many years past, the kings of Queda paid 5,000 Dollars per Annum on account of the King of Siam, who rented to Queda for that sum the Islands contiguous to Junkceylon, for the purpose of gathering Birds nests and Beche de mer. The arrangement was highly beneficial to Queda as the produce in those articles was said to amount to 16,000 Dollars per annum. More of the character and proceedings of the present Chief of Ligor will appear hereafter.

Merdelong is most probably a Malay corruption of the Siamese Mooung Tha loong (?) or Country of Tha-loong, while the large island off the East Coast of Malay Peninsula named Tatalam in European Charts must be as Mr. Crawfurd observes a corruption of the Malay Tana-tha-loong, or land of Tha-loong. The early voyagers name this state Bondelon, probably from the Siamese Ban Tha long, place or village of Tha-loong. This territory lies between Ligor and Singora extending on the West Coast of the Peninsula from the river Plean below Trang to the river Oopeh, the boundary of Queda. The inhabitants are described as mixing in their character all the ferocity and predatory habits of the Malays with the cunning and dissimulation of the Siamese. The present Phya or Chief of Merdelong being old and incapable of Governing, was lately summoned to Siam for the purpose of being removed and succeeded by the eldest son of the Raja of Ligor.

Singora, or as it is named by the Siamese Songkhla is a small Province lying between Merdelong and Tana. In 1678 the Agent from the Government of Fort St. George upon failing at Patani, proceeded to Singora, which he describes as a judicious place for

the establishment of a factory, possessing excellent and cheap pepper, and the Chief pressing him to settle there. In Captain Hamilton's time Singora was subject to the jurisdiction of Ligor, between the Chiefs of which two Governments much jealousy and difference have always existed. The present Phya, a Chief of Chinese extraction, was shortly after the occupation of Queda by the Siamese sent up in chains to Bangkok, for having shown some unwillingness to cooperate in the execution of the Wang-na's proceedings against Queda. He was however released by the present King of Siam upon his accession to the throne, and by means of a large bribe paid to some of the Officers of the Court, he was lately permitted to return to his Government. He appeared to the Misson well disposed to cultivate friendly relations with the Government of Prince of Wales Island. Both Merdelong and Singora have of late been placed under the authority of the Chief of Ligor. Not only by sea, through the Trang and other rivers to the North of Queda, but by means of overland routes from Purlis to Singora in 3 or 4 days, and from Lunga to Merdelong in 4 or 5 days, the most easy communication subsist between Queda and the above Siamese Government by which means also a very useful commercial intercourse formerly passed with Prince of Wales Island. The object of the 10th Article of the Treaty now negotiated was intended to renew and extend this overland trade. But the Chiefs of these Siamese Governments have latterly been invited by the dissensions and intrigues of the Royal family of Queda to participate largely in the concerns and interests of that Kingdom. In 1808 Lieutt. Governor Farquhar recommended that a letter should be addressed by the Governor General to the King of Siam, stating that such a letter might be attended with the salutary effect of 1st, opening a communication and forming a frendship between the British Government and Siam, the knowledge of which would keep Ava in

check and be of the greatest consequence in the event of a rupture with that power; 2ndly, obliging the King of Queda to keep his faith with us from a knowledge of our influence with his Lord Superior; and 3rdly, Preserving the King of Queda's country in in peace from the King of Siam's prevailing influence over that Prince's neighbours. This measure however was not adopted, and in 1809 a fresh source of intrigues between the King's brothers and the Siamese Chiefs, and of Siamese interference with Queda arose from the Burmese having taken possession of Junkceylon whence they prepared to come farther to the to the Southward. A large detachment from Siam under Prince Krom Sak, the present Wang-na, and the forces of Ligor, Singora and Merdelong came down in the neighbourhood of Queda, whose Chief also was summoned to join them with a large supply of men, boats and provisions. His Highness complied with this requisition and his boats under his Bindahara were said to have been principally instrumental in expelling the Burmese from Junkceylon in the year 1810. Heavy requisitions for additional supplies of boats, men and provisions were afterwards imposed upon His Highness, under the pretext of providing against the return of the Burmese to the Southward. In 1810 His Highness repeatedly solicited the interposition of the Government of Prince of Wales Island and in December of the year appealed to the Governor General himself, whose reply* was in effect following up the principle of noninterference laid down by Lord Cornwallis in 1788. The Government of Prince of Wales Island in forwarding the King of Queda's appeal to the Governor General was obliged to make the following admission. "On the death of the late Rajah "(of Queda) disputes arose relative to the succession "which were most unfortunately referred to the "King of Siam, who determined in favor of the now "reigning Prince, and appointed his brother Tuanku "Ibrahim Rajah Mooda, or Heir Apparent. This re-

* To be copied later.

" ference and the consequences which followed, have " encouraged a derogatory and unprecedented interfer- " ence of late, more immediately urged at this moment " in consequence of the armies of Siam having been " hard pressed by those of the Burmans, and the " resources of that kingdom and those of its allies and " dependents being necessarily called into exertion to " repel the invasion of Junkceylon." But about this time, a brother of the King of Queda, Tuanku Busnoo, privately accused him of having opened a correspondence with Ava, and in fact of having led to the above visit of the Burmese to the Southward. No charge could be more serious at the Court of Siam, and unfortunately no charge is more readily credited there against a distant Chief. The Phya of Singora, we have before seen, had obtained the throne for the present King of Queda, and he now conveyed to Bangkok Tuanku Busnoo, in order to effect the removal of the former and establish the latter brother. The Raja of Ligor however, interfered in favor of the King of Queda, who sent his Bindahara and Eldest Son Tuanku Abdullah to Siam, under the conduct of that Raja. The son performed homage before the King of Siam, and the doubts which had been entertained of the good faith of the Chief of Queda appear to have been removed. It was during the visit of Tuanku Abdullah to Bangkok that the Court of Siam first entertained the project of subduing Perak, and in 1813 and order was sent down to the King of Queda to undertake that measure. The proceedings consequent to His Highness's appeal for advice to the Government of Prince of Wales Island have been before mentioned. The Supreme Government was again guided by the principles laid down by Lord Cornwallis, in 1788, authorizing the Government of Prince of Wales Island only, should the measure appear advisable, but which it did not, to depute a Mission to the Court of Siam for the purpose of offering if possible the friendly mediation of the British Government in the disputes

between that power and the Chiefs of Queda and Perak. In 1816 the King of Queda received another peremptory order from Siam to attack Perak, which led to the invasion and destruction of that country and to the detriment of his own means and resources. In 1818 His Highness having received from Siam a fresh requisition for supplies of grain and boats, again appealed to the Government of Prince of Wales Island, which deputed a Mission to him for the purpose of ascertaining his real situation, and of assuring him a safe asylum and protection at Prince of Wales Island under any adverse circumstances. About this time, the King removed from his Capital to a place up the Murboo River named Pulo Tiga, which he fortified, and where he secluded himself among his women. He had for some years made a native of the Coast of Coromandel named Bapoo Kundoo his principal adviser, and had alienated the minds of his Ministers and of most of the Chiefs of the country. The Bindahara, who was a remarkably intelligent native, was much dissatisfied, and he appears early to have foreseen the consequences of his master's misgovernment, having repeatedly made private application to the Government of Prince of Wales Island to ascertain whether it would afford him an asylum on that Island should circumstances render it necessary for him to retire from Queda. The King also showed no disposition to maintain a friendly intercourse with the Government of Prince of Wales Island, having imposed a duty of 16 Dollars per Coyan upon the exportation of grain from Queda contrary to the stipulations in the 3rd Article of his treaty, having opposed the opening of a communication between Prince of Wales Island and Patani and the interior of the Malay Peninsula, and having declined to grant a small extension of territory between the Muda and Murboo Rivers, or at least to permit the establishment near them of some convenient posts, which were desired as a means of extending and protecting the navigation of those

Rivers, and of preventing piratical fleets from taking shelter within them, as they had long been accustomed to do. Had the King complied with this last requisition from the Government of Prince of Wales Island, he is now himself convinced that his territory so far at least as his Fort at Pulo Tiga, would have been safe from the attacks of the Siamese.

His brother, Tuanku Amboar, however, now, went over to the Siamese and accused the King to the Raja of Ligor among other points "with governing his country so as to create great disturbances among the Ryots" and with "having changed his place of residence from Queda to Murboo, to be [at] a distance from the affairs of the country intending to run away to Siak." The King was two or three times invited to give the Raja of Ligor a meeting which he evaded, and which appears to have first turned that Chief into his enemy. He was afterwards repeatedly ordered by the Court of Siam and summoned to appear there, or at Ligor, but His Highness evaded obedience. The accusation of his being in secret correspondence with the Burmese was renewed, and these discussions with His Highness furnished the Wang-na and his party at the Court of Siam with fresh motives and arguments for imposing a more direct interference and control over the Malay States. At length, in February 1821, intelligence was received at Prince of Wales Island from Siam, stating that a force of 6000 Troops was equipping destined to attack Queda, in consequence of some remissness on the part of the King to transmit the Boonga Mas to Siam. Notice of this intelligence was immediately communicated to the King of Queda who replied that "he had received similar reports and that hearing some Siamese had come to Settool and Lungu, he had sent a secret agent there, who had returned with information that several hundreds of Siamese had established themselves at those places." Settool and Lungu were in the

territory of the King of Queda, and nothing surely can better show the nature of his Government and authority at this time, than the manner in which he heard that parties of Siamese had come there, and the steps which he took to ascertain the truth of such information. The King in his reply to the Government of Prince of Wales Island further admitted the charge of remissness in rendering the Boonga Mas, a charge which with reference to the bad feeling that had long subsisted between himself and the Siamese he ought to have especially avoided incurring. He attributed the delay however to the epidemic sickness which had lately appeared in Queda.

On the 12th of November a fleet of Siamese prows entered the Queda river under the charge of Chiom Phya Ban, the present Commander in Chief at Queda. Seeing the numerous threats which had lately been held out against the Chief of Queda, and the information which he actually possessed of the Siamese equipping a force to attack him, it is surprizing that no measures were taken by his ministers, who alone were at Queda, the Chief himself being at Pulo Tiga, to oppose or resist the Siamese fleet, the Commander of which entered into a discussion with the Laxamana, Bindahara and Tomongong of Queda, pretending that to obtain a supply of rice was the object of their coming. An opportunity however was soon taken of surrounding these Ministers, two of them, the Laxamana and Tomongong and several of the Malays were killed on the spot, and the Bindahara, and subsequently the second son of the King of Queda, Tuanku Yacoob, were made prisoners and put in irons.* The

* *Note.* The Bindahara on the route to Ligor. The Malays assert that he was poisoned with a dose of gunpowder dissolved in water. Tuanku Yacoob also died last year, just after the Mission had seen him at Ligor and the King of Queda believes that he also was poisoned.

moment intelligence of these proceedings reached the King at Pulo Tiga, a place which he has taken so much pains to fortify, he and his adviser, Bapoo Kundu, placed their women and treasure upon Elephants and fled towards Province Wellesley. They were pursued by the Siamese and some of the elephants conveying the King's sisters and their children and some treasure fell into the hands of the enemy. At this time a very small party only of the Siamese had entered the Queda territory, the main force under the Raja of Ligor had not come up—never therefore was a more ignoble flight than the Raja of Queda's, and no respectable Malay now mentions it but with shame, acknowledging that had His Highness but proceeded straight to Queda, or had the Malays but possessed at that time a single energetic Chief, the small party of Siamese at that Capital could have been destroyed, and suitable measures taken for defending the country against the larger force advancing under the Raja of Ligor.

The King however came to Prye, whence his application for an asylum at Prince of Wales Island was of course instantly granted, with one understanding only, that the British Government should not be considered as pledged to deviate from the strict line of neutrality which it had always observed in the disputes between himself and Siam.

Immediately after the flight of His Highness from Queda Mr. Crawfurd arrived at Prince of Wales Island on his route as Agent from the Right Honble. the Governor General to the Court of Siam. Every information was supplied to him, and he was subsequently authorized by the Supreme Government, still in the spirit of the principles laid down by Lord Cornwallis, to employ the countenance and influence of the British Government as far as the same could be prudently and consistently afforded, towards reconciling the Court of Siam to the King of Queda, and

effecting his restitution on some better defined terms. Mr. Crawfurd however was particularly directed not to mix this subject with that which was the primary object of his Mission. The Raja of Ligor, whilst advancing towards Queda had forwarded a letter to the Government of Prince of Wales Island couched in threatening and unbecoming language, and evidently intended to prevent the British Government from affording protection to the King of Queda. This letter received of course a suitable reply and a copy of it was furnished to Mr. Crawfurd for the purpose of being shown to the Siamese Ministers.

Mr. Crawfurd in his negotiations at Bangkok opened the subject of the invasion of Queda by admitting at once the dependence of Queda on Siam stating that this point had been fully enquired into by the Most Noble the Governor General of India, and been conceded without hesitation. He explained to the Siamese Ministers at the same time, that the King of Queda was an old friend of the English Nation, and that compassion for his misfortunes had induced us to afford him an asylum. That we had not enquired into the merits or demerits of his conduct, but according to our custom had afforded protection to an unfortunate Prince and a friend who had come amongst us. That the King of Queda or any other Prince in the same situation was at all times at perfect liberty to go where he pleased. But that, we considered it a point of honor, not to surrender him under any circumstances whatever. The Siamese Ministers admitted, though Mr. Crawfurd believes with little sincerity, that the principle adopted by the British Government was a liberal and generous one, and could not but be approved of. But Mr. Crawfurd found that the persons with whom he had to negotiate were the very individuals who had recommended the invasion of Queda and the Seizure of the King's person, upon an accusation of Treason for

alleged assistance given to the national enemy, the Burmans. These individuals had already formed their resolution against the Chief of Queda, and they were desirous only of obtaining possession of his person. The measure which the King of Queda had adopted of placing himself under the protection of the British Government has served only to increase the suspicions and animosity of the Siamese Court towards him, and Mr. Crawfurd therefore judged it prudent and strictly conformable to his instructions to abstain from urging the subject to any length, lest he might run the risk of involving our Government by a further agitation of it.

He succeeded however in satisfying the Siamese Ministers of the impropriety of the language used by the Raja of Ligor in his first address to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, and they assured him that express orders should be sent to that Chief, and to all other Siamese Officers to preserve the most guarded conduct with the British Authorities in their future intercourse with them. The Raja of Ligor subsequently apologized to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, through Captain Burney, for having used so offensive a style in that letter.

Mr. Crawfurd succeeded also in establishing a point respecting which some doubts had existed at Prince of Wales Island,—our right of sovereignty in that Island and the territory on the Peninsula. The right of the King of Queda to cede any portion of his territory without the permission of his Liege Lord, and hence the validity of the whole of Mr. Light's proceedings, were questioned. It was stated that it was well known that the King of Queda had given some umbrage to the Siamese Monarch by his first grant of the Island, and that his liege Lord had also disapproved, as His Highness had often declared, of the last cession to us of the territory on the opposite shore, while it was worthy of remark, that a King

of Siam had actually deputed an Agent in 1791 to Captain Light to demand aid from Prince of Wales Island in a war which His Majesty was then waging against the Burmese. The fact of an undisturbed occupation of the Island for nearly forty years, and of its having been considered as a British possession in numerous Acts of the British parliament, and in a Charter of Justice from our Sovereign, ought certainly have made it too late to allow the question of right to be raised in any shape whatever. The British Government also, as was before shown, never admitted that Siam had divested the tributary Malay Chiefs of the rights of Government and Sovereignty. But Mr. Crawfurd reported, that the frequent and distinct references made to Prince of Wales Island throughout his conferences with the Siamese Negotiators as a British possession, left no doubt whatever upon his mind that the Siamese looked upon our right of Sovereignty in Penang and the territory opposite to it, as not to be questioned, and that the right of the Malay Prince to alienate a portion of his fief being once admitted by the Siamese Court and a total silence of 36 years, must be looked upon as a valid and substantial admission of it. We may add here, that shortly after the occupation of Queda by the Siamese the Raja of Ligor ostensibly transferred the Government of the Country to the retired Chief Sultan Tha oodeen for the purpose of making through him a demand of the Annual Stipend of 10,000 Dollars from the Government of Prince of Wales Island. The Claim however was distinctly disavowed, and it has never been repeated. The Treaty negotiated by the late Mission, in as much as it formally recognizes Prince of Wales Island as a British Possession, must now set at rest all doubts of our right of Sovereignty.

Upon the return of Mr. Crawfurd from Siam the King of Queda, dissatisfied with the result of that gentleman's negotiations, expressed a desire of quitting

Prince of Wales Island for the purpose of proceeding to Queda and recovering his territory by force. It was pointed out to His Highness, that his means were wholly inadequate to such an end, that he had lost the aid of his principal Ministers and Chiefs without whom any such attempt would be certain of failure, and would lead only to a useless expenditure of the lives of such of his subjects as might be induced to join him, and that in case of his failure he could not return to seek an asylum at Prince of Wales Island without obliging the British Government to deviate from the line of neutrality which it had ever resolved upon maintaining in the disputes between His Highness and the Siamese. The King finding that the expression of his desire would not, as he had hoped, oblige the British Government to take some more active steps in his support, then privately deputed some agents to Tavoy for the purpose of soliciting the assistance of the Court of Ava. That power readily met this appeal and envoys with letters and presents were promptly sent down to Prince of Wales Island, in order to ascertain the real situation of affairs; but the declaration of war which was soon after published by the British Government against Ava, obliged these Burmese Envoys to return hastily to Tavoy. It is necessary to mention, that the application to the Burmese had been made by the King of Queda without the smallest communication with the Government of Prince of Wales Island which, the moment it discovered the circumstance, sent notice of it to the Rajah of Ligor, under an impression not only that the approach of the Burmese to the neighbourhood of Prince of Wales Island would be extremely inconvenient, but that the Siamese had some right to be advised of the matter by the British Government, which had repeatedly declared its intention of not permitting the Rajah of Queda to disturb the Siamese from under its protection. The knowledge of this proceeding on the part of the King of Queda fully

confirmed all the previous accusations against him of holding secret and friendly correspondence with the national enemy [and] is viewed at Bangkok as the most heinous and as an inexpiable crime; it made every Siamese there decidedly and irreclaimably hostile to the King of Queda.

Since that date, His Highness and his subjects have been unremitting in their endeavours to create a misunderstanding between the Siamese and the British Government. Reports after reports have been brought of the Raja of Ligor preparing equipments for the purpose of attacking Prince of Wales Island and some of the very persons who have been the principal informers in that island have gone also to the Raja of Ligor with intelligence of the hostile intentions of the Government of Prince of Wales Island, by which the fears and suspicions of that Chief have been kept alive to the same extent as the mistrust and jealousy of our own Government. Of course, a very large portion of the Malay inhabitants fled from Queda when they saw their King abscond and the principal Chiefs killed or dispersed, and it cannot be concealed, that the operations of the Siamese against Queda and the Lamava* Islands were conducted with all the barbarity and cruelty used by that nation in war; men, women and children being massacred, made slaves or carried away in that condition to the neighbouring Siamese Governments. But much of this barbarity and cruelty were the results of attempts made by small parties of Malays to draw out the Siamese from Queda, attempts which ended only in "the destruction of the assailants, and in increased persecution towards the remaining inhabitants," and in increased immigration into the territory of Prince of Wales Island. The Government there afforded every possible relief and protection to these emigrants and a number of at least 12,000 Souls were settled in Province Wellesley, and engaged in the cultivation of lands allotted to them by Mr. Maingy

* sic. ? Lancawa.

whilst superintending that Province with so much zeal and credit. Many of the inhabitants of Queda however were of too idle and restless a character to settle, and these have taken to a life of piracy and plunder, and have been instrumental in preventing the establishment of cordiality or confidence in the intercourse between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and the Rajah of Ligor. In the first part of this Report, mention was made of the apprehensions excited against the Rajah of Ligor at Prince of Wales Island in 1822 and again last year. At both times Captain Burney visited that Chief and could not find the smallest grounds for imputing his equipments to secret hostility against Prince of Wales Island. The Chief showed himself to be too well aware of the means and power of the British Government to venture on any such measure. His preparations in 1822 were more defensive than offensive, having been assured by some Malays who had visited him from Prince of Wales Island, of the determination of the British Government to restore the King of Queda by force. Last year when this Chief deemed it prudent to stop upon finding that his projected attack upon Salengore would involve him with the Government of Prince of Wales Island Captain Burney found that Malay informers had again assured the Siamese of the intention of the British Government to attack them at Queda. In fact, both last year and in 1822 it was curious to observe that the Siamese at Queda had been impressed with precisely the same apprehensions of an attack, as the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island. This state of mutual doubt and apprehension had been entirely brought about by the secret adherents of the King of Queda and other Malays, and so convinced was Captain Burney of this fact, that before proceeding on the Mission to Siam, he submitted to the consideration of the Government of Prince of Wales Island that in case of his failing to effect the removal of the Siamese from Queda, no other arrangement, whatever might be the

advantages held forth by it, could be carried into full effect as long as the King of Queda continued to live at that Island, and his friends and partizans to exasperate the natural distrust and jealousy of the Siamese.

Captain Burney anticipated a failure in the object of restoring the King of Queda, because the Mission was furnished with no equivalent to offer to the Siamese, and because he had just before observed the Raja of Ligor and the Siamese at Queda speak of our old ally with great asperity and animosity. The Government of Prince of Wales Island however whilst it fully admitted the necessity of a final decision one way or other and acknowledged that no confidence could subsist between it and the Siamese so long as the King of Queda remained at Prince of Wales Island, declared that it could "only be under the conviction resulting from trial of the utter hopelessness of success that we should ever allow ourselves to contemplate the abandonment of the cause of the King of Queda."

Upon the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok we discovered that the Court of Siam had taken a far greater interest in the proceedings of the Raja of Ligor than what was believed at Prince of Wales Island, that most of the principal persons at Bangkok had shared in the plunder of Queda, and that besides guns and other articles, about 1000 of the inhabitants of Queda had been sent up to be employed by the King, Wangna and almost every Siamese Minister. In the Month of February, the Envoy reported to the Government of Prince of Wales Island that the Siamese Ministers were decidedly opposed to the restoration of the King of Queda, that nearly the whole of the Revenues of Queda, estimated to amount to 30,000 Dollars, were sent up to Bangkok, and that the offered annual Payment of 4,000 Dollars was too insignificant,

when compared with the profits derived by the Siamese from the direct occupation of Queda. The Envoy suggested therefore, that he should be authorized to tender to the Siamese Ministers some other advantage, besides an augmentation of the 4,000 Dollars per annum proposed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island. No such authority could be granted to him. In March he reported to the Supreme Government that by perseverance and in fact intimidation he might ultimately succeed in rescuing Queda from Siamese Domination, but that in such case he should leave the Court of Siam much dissatisfied with the British Government and with himself, while the engagement into which he might prevail upon the Siamese Ministers to enter, would be by no means so cordial or so encouraging to our mercantile interests as one in which Queda was not wrested from Siam. The Envoy in his conferences with the Siamese Ministers used every argument in his power to persuade them of the justice, humanity and policy of restoring the King of Queda. He pointed out the great mutual benefits which such an arrangement would afford to both the Siamese and English nations. The certainty of our friendship remaining unbroken, and the security which such a concession on the part of Siam would give to our future intercourse. He noticed the serious collision which the Rajah of Ligor had nearly brought on with the British Government by the armament which he had lately collected at Queda, and the mischievous proceedings of his Emissaries at Prince of Wales Island, where the name and character of His Highness the Envoy declared, were held in such terror by the Natives and in such abhorrence by many of the European inhabitants, that it would be impossible for the relations between Queda and that Island to be placed on a quiet and satisfactory footing so long as His Highness or any of his family governed that territory. In fact, the Envoy during several conferences with the Ministers, and in several memorials argued

flattered and even threatened without making any impression. The Siamese Ministers objected most decidedly to the King of Queda for having connected himself with the Burmese, and done everything in his power to injure Siam. They repeatedly assured the Mission that the future Government of Queda should be settled in such manner as to preclude all chance of collision with the British Government and so as to ensure the most friendly relations between that country and Prince of Wales Island. They asked the Envoy, whether he was prepared for the sake of Queda, to reject all the other advantages which it was in the power of his Mission to obtain in favor of the British Government, and they declared that the King of Siam would appeal to the Governor General himself and point out the grounds upon which His Majesty found it absolutely impossible to consent to the restoration of the King of Queda.

The Envoy has recorded in his Journal on the 26th of May an opinion that if he had broken up the conference which he held that night with the Siamese Ministers, and had prepared to quit the country, they would have yielded the point rather than have permitted him to depart. Without reflecting that this Journal was only a record of his daily impressions, that opinion has since been cited against the Envoy. It is impossible with such an ignorant and conceited Court as that of Siam to predict with any degree of certainty, what would be its proceedings in any particular contingency, but there is no doubt that subsequent experience induced the Envoy to question the accuracy of his opinion, and to perceive that the whole of his instructions, as well as the circumstance of two English merchants residing at Bangkok with considerable property which he could not remove with him, would have rendered it impossible for him to put his opinion to the proof, without incurring a very awful responsibility and heavy censure, had the issue

been contrary to that which he anticipated.

The Envoy foresaw that our abandonment of the Cause of the King of Queda would subject him to much personal inquietude on his return to Prince of Wales Island, but he trusted that the authorities there would admit, as they have done him the honor to admit, the difficulty with which he had to contend, from the impracticable character of the people with whom he had to deal. The necessity of yielding some points for the attainment of others, and the manifest expediency of coming to some sort of understanding, instead of quitting the Court of Siam, if not actually hostile, at least on unfriendly terms. The Envoy also believed, that the whole character of his Mission was conciliatory, and that unless he could effect the restoration of the King of Queda by amicable negotiation and make an arrangement to which it would be the interests of the Siamese to keep, he had much better concede the point. To restore the King of Queda by means of intimidation only, appeared to the Envoy inconsistent, not only with his instructions but with policy, and on the following grounds. The great mischief has already been done in Queda. The country throughout is in the occupation of the Siamese. We have publicly acknowledged their right of interfering with it. The inhabitants have for the most part been driven out, and many of them forced to a life of piracy whence it will perhaps be impossible to reclaim them, the principal Ministers and only respectable Chiefs of the former Malayan Government have been destroyed or dispersed. Some of them have even been persuaded to join the Siamese interests and petition the King of Siam, as they did while the Mission was at Bangkok, against the restoration of the King of Queda. Were the King of Queda to return to his territory, we should be required to assume the direct charge of his country, as he does not possess a single respectable adherent

and as he cannot now be supposed capable of ruling the Kingdom which he misgoverned when supported by all his Chiefs and his deceased Bindahara, Laxamana, and Tomoongong. The jealousy and distrust of the Siamese and of the Raja of Ligor would be greatly increased and our commercial intercourse with Upper and Lower Siam seriously obstructed, if not entirely cut off. No good understanding could be established between the King of Queda and the Siamese, and to preclude the intrigues and designs of the latter we should be obliged to fix a military force with His Highness and to provide on the hills and forest of Queda and on the confines of Ligor, Singora, Merdilong and Patani, against all those evils and dangers redoubled, which are believed to threaten Prince of Wales Island; whilst the Raja of Ligor and the Siamese are in the immediate neighbourhood of that Settlement, and of all our means of defence and chastisement. The restoration of the King of Queda in such a manner would, in fact, soon draw on the British Government to Ligor, and even to Bangkok, whilst the resources of that territory would not meet a Hundredth part of all this expence.

The Envoy did not attempt to persuade the Siamese Ministers, if they could not consent to the restoration of the King of Queda, to appoint some other member of his family, or at least to continue a Malayan Government in Queda, because he saw that the views and feelings of the Court of Siam were so decided against foregoing the profit which it derives from the direct occupation of Queda, that they would only have selected some Malay, like Sultan Heaoodeen, to be a mere tool in the hands of the Raja of Ligor. Such a character would have been more afraid to cultivate intimate relations with Prince of Wales Island than a regular Siamese Governor, and to prove the sincerity of his devotion to Siam would have often acted in a more unfriendly manner towards British

Subjects than what the occasion required.

The Envoy also did not attempt to obtain from the Siamese Ministers any cession of additional territory on the Coast of Queda, because he saw that the application would have been unsuccessful, the customs and practice of the Siamese Court rendering any formal cession of territory on their part most objectionable and unprecedented, and because the Envoy knew the policy of burthening ourselves with the expense and duty of maintaining an additional tract of terrritory on the Coast of Queda had been questioned by high authorities, and on one occasion decidedly opposed by the Supreme Government.

But the Envoy saw the necessity of endeavouring to engage the Siamese Court to afford the Malay Inhabitants of Queda proper treatment. From the earliest time numbers of Malays have been found among the population of the Capital of Siam, some of them serving the King as soldiers and many engaged as slaves and domestic servants among the Chiefs and principal people. It has before been mentioned that on the first occupation of Queda, 1,000 of the inhabitants had been sent up to Bangkok. Shortly after the Mergui captives had been released, the Mission found that the Raja of Ligor had distributed about 150 Malays whom he had brought up from Queda, among the principal Courtiers, who had been deprived of the services of the Burmese. Although these Malays are not treated with the same inhumanity as the national enemies of Siam, the Burmese being chiefly employed as domestic attendants and cultivators of land, still the Envoy deemed it right to remonstrate very seriously with the Raja of Ligor on this subject, and to assure him that it would be impossible for the British Government to view with indifference this species of slave trade, practised in the Dominions of an old ally, and in the immediate neighbourhood of

Prince of Wales Island. The Raja promised to [dis]-continue such removal of the inhabitants of Queda and to keep him in recollection of his promise, as well as to show to the Siamese, when acquiescing in their direct occupation of Queda, the first part of the 13th Article of the Treaty was drafted, engaging the Siamese to take proper care of the country of Queda and of its people.

The Envoy had some difficulty in persuading the Siamese Ministers to relinquish the duty upon the exportation of grain and provisions from Queda into Prince of Wales Island, and principally in consequence of the Government of Prince of Wales Island having for so many years, as the Siamese declared, permitted the King of Queda to levy such a duty, contrary to the stipulations of his treaty. The mischievous system of farming the exclusive navigation and trade of the different rivers in Queda was also engaged to be discontinued.

The Envoy, of course, made a point of effecting the release of the King of Queda's family and personal servants who had been removed to Ligor and detained there since the first irruption of the Siamese into Queda. The Siamese Negotiators however made it a point on their part, that the British Government should engage that these released captives, the King of Queda, and his followers should not be permitted to attack or disturb the Siamese and as a further security that the King of Queda should be removed from the neighbourhood of Queda. The Envoy had before submitted to the Government of Prince of Wales Island, which had entirely agreed with him, that no good understanding could subsist between that authority and the Siamese, so long as the King of Queda remained at Prince of Wales Island, and the Envoy therefore now conceived that he should be warranted in affording to the Siamese Negotiators an unequivocal

proof of the desire of the British Government to establish friendly relations with Siam, by conceding this point without hesitation. Some alteration was made in the terms in which the Siamese negotiators desired to express this engagement, and both parties fully understood, that such an engagement should bind the British Government not to permit the King of Queda and his followers to disturb or to plan measures for attacking or molesting the Siamese, so long only as those persons might be living under the protection, at the expence, and in the territories of the British Government. The Envoy however, in anticipation of the feeling which such an engagement would excite at Prince of Wales Island, took the precaution of rendering it conditional only, inserting a clause at the close of the 13th Article to allow the Siamese to continue at Queda the export duty upon grain, in the event of the authorities at Prince of Wales Island being unwilling to enforce the removal of the King of Queda from that Settlement.

Upon the return of the Mission to Prince of Wales Island the King of Queda being naturally dissatisfied with the result of the negotiations at Bangkok, again expressed his desire of proceeding to attack the Siamese at Queda. The Government of Prince of Wales Island invited His Highness to proceed to Malacca and at the same time called upon him to be a party [to] the treaty negotiated by the late Mission, and to make a formal and final renunciation of all future claims on his Kingdom. There was was surely no real necessity for offering His Highness an option, or for calling upon him to be a party to the Treaty. That His Highness is entitled to every protection, and the most liberal provision from the British Government is undeniable, but surely our duty towards him is too rigorously viewed when it is supposed to preclude our coupling this protection and provision with such terms as may secure our own

peace and tranquillity. Of course, His Highness is at liberty to refuse acquiescence to our terms and to appeal for assistance to any Native or Foreign European power. But the threats which he makes of quitting Penang, and of collecting and arming his dispersed followers to attack Queda, are now as they were in 1823, merely made to try the British Government. He and his advisers are aware of the folly and utter hopelessness of attempting to execute such threats. No Native power in the neighbourhood of Prince of Wales Island is capable of affording him efficient aid against the Siamese, and it is not very likely to be the policy or interest of any European power to interfere in his behalf and take possession of such a territory as Queda. Unfortunately, His Highness has never been properly assured that the British Government will not restore him by force, and his friends at Prince of Wales Island have assisted him to make appeals to that authority, and have buoyed him up with hopes of a restoration by such means. He is even at this moment fully impressed with a belief that the Supreme Government will be persuaded to afford him adequate aid to recover his territory, and without such aid he and all his followers are well aware of the utter hopelessness of his cause. It is quite natural therefore that no arrangement, short of his restoration, will ever receive his acquiescence, until he be peremptorily assured of the determination of the Supreme Government not to employ in his favor any other means than those within which it has for so many years confined the interference of the Government of Prince of Wales Island. But it is high time that the question should now be decided one way or the other.

In 1824 the Supreme Government determined that the Political considerations which suggest the attempts to effect the restoration of the Malay Government in Queda resolve themselves into the following.

The British Government would unquestionably gain by the measure in reputation among the Eastern States. It would remove from the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island and from a state of actual contact with its Continental Territory a most troublesome and unaccommodating neighbour, between whom and our Government at Prince of Wales Island disputes are at all times liable to break out. It would restore to Prince of Wales Island those necessary supplies of grain from which it is now cut off, and finally, it would put a stop to the alarming increase of piracy which has taken place in consequence of the flight of the Malay population through dread of the Siamese. and their addiction to predatory courses from wanting the means of subsistence.

The Treaty now negotiated with the Siamese Government will, it is hoped, be considered as having attained some of the above objects, and the establishment of defined friendly relations with the Siamese, of free trade and intercourse between Queda and Prince of Wales Island, and of prudent provisions for the Settlement of all questions relating to boundaries, refugees, and military or Naval equipments, ought materially to reduce the chances of collision between the Siamese and our Government at Prince of Wales Island, while those who are aware of the real character of the King of Queda and of the ignoble manner of his flight from his territory, must doubt whether the measure of his restoration would have much increased the reputation of the British Government.* But there are other grounds upon which the Government of Prince of Wales Island advocate the expediency of restoring the King of Queda, Vizt., That Siamese

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* *Note.* The Chief of Salengore in his communications with the Political Agent lately deputed to him from Prince of Wales Island, declared that "the King of Queda was a woman for making so poor a resistance against the Siamese."

supremacy over the Malay States has been taken for granted and not proved. That no instance of acknowledged or established dependency of the one, or supremacy of the other has ever been produced, or can be traced in the Malayan Annals. That the mere presentation of the Boonga Mas bears no such construction of dependence as has been put upon it. That the protection of the British Government against both Siam and Ava was the object for which the King of Queda proposed the cession of Prince of Wales Island. That the triennial presentation of the Boonga Mas was the only connexion that subsisted between Queda and Siam. That the encroachments and ruinous interference of the Siamese were the consequence of the King of Queda's connexion with the British Government, and that as there never occurred in the Annals of India an instance of a Native Chief suffering so severely from British connexion, so his restoration becomes essential to the character and reputation of the British Government. Finally that it is the true policy of the British Government to keep up the petty States now standing between us and the Siamese, and to endeavour to relieve those which have been subverted, so as to prevent our coming in contact with that power in the neighbourhood of Prince of Wales Island.

It was deemed absolutely necessary to trace in so lengthened and perhaps tedious a manner as has been done in this paper, the early history of the Malay Principalities and the proceedings of the British Government and of the Chiefs of Queda since our occupation of Prince of Wales Island, for the purpose of enabling the proper authorities to determine how far the above grounds upon which the cause of the King of Queda is advocated at Prince of Wales Island are correct and tenable. The opinions of Mr. Crawfurd who resided for years at Prince of Wales Island, and who possesses, in addition to his other great qua-

lifications a knowledge of the personal character of the present King of Queda, may be here usefully adduced in support of the proceedings of his successor at the Court of Siam.

The next point upon which I have the honor to submit my sentiments is the nature of the arrangements which it may be useful or convenient to make with the Supreme Government respecting the local interests of Prince of Wales Island. Before entering upon this topic I feel it to be my duty to offer it respectfully as my clear and distinct conviction, that these interests, however valuable otherwise, are of secondary importance to those which have just been considered, while in fact the most essential of them are virtually secured by the establishment of the former.

Queda, before its occupation by the Siamese contained from 40 to 50,000 inhabitants, and the Rajah, by creating monopolies and by other means little short of extortion realized an anuual revenue of about 30,000 Dollars exclusive of the Stipend of 10,000 paid by the British Government. The demand for grain by the population of Prince of Wales Island was the cause of a considerable cultivation of rice in a few favored spots along the banks of the rivers, but in general the country is covered with an extensive forest, and to such an extent that the population can scarcely be computed to exceed 8 inhabitants to a square mile. Queda is generally destitute of all those commodities which give some commercial consequence to the other States of the Peninsula such as tin, gold, pepper, and other ordinary Malayan products.

It is almost superfluous to mention that Prince of Wales Island with a strip of territory 20 miles long and 3 broad, are portions of the Queda principality, and that they owe their present culture and population exclusively to British protection, being one dreary and uninhabited forest when we obtained possession. It

is of importance here to remark, that since the Siamese occupation a vast number of the Malays of Queda have emigrated into the British Territories, transferring thither under more favorable auspices the culture of grain, which was formerly carried on within the Native districts for the supply of Prince of Wales Island, thus contributing already to render any connection with that country less necessary to us.

From this rapid sketch it will perhaps appear to the Government that the acquisition of supremacy of Queda is not a matter of the first moment to us, nor perhaps one calculated to ensure us any object of material value, that it may entail upon us, on the contrary, future inconvenience and embarrassment, and that while its relinquishment by the Siamese may be a matter of considerable difficulty, to contend for it on ours, may involve the sacrifice of objects of far greater moment and utility.

These different points demand respectively some explanation. The great inconvenience which has been felt at Prince of Wales Island for the last 15 years and since the recovery of the Siamese power, has arisen simply and solely according to my conception, from the British power having come into accidental collision with the Siamese Government at this weak and detached point of Our Empire, and therefore in a situation not calculated to impress the proud and ignorant Court of Siam with the necessary respect for our strength and resources. This delusion will be at once dissipated by our permanent occupation of Tavoy and Mergui, and by the great lesson of our strength which the results of the Burman war will have taught the nations beyond the Ganges, and which, by commanding their respect, will in future render all palliative and corrective expedients unnecessary.

In the reports which I had the honor to lay before Government respecting the Mission to Siam, I

offered it as my opinion that more advantage was likely to accrue to us from a direct intercourse with the Siamese than with the more uncivilized and less industrious Malays, whose connection, although it had lasted for near 40 years, has been productive of no beneficial change in their own manners [and] no sensible advantage to us, and I still continue to entertain these sentiments.

It is however to be remarked, that the acquisition of the supremacy, and without sacrifice, by no means removes us from the vicinage of the Siamese or their Political influence. They would still in such a case possess the supremacy of Perak, reaching far to the South of us, and of Patani to the east, while their own immediate territory would bound us to the north, so that they would thus in a great measure continue nearly to surround ourselves and our feeble ally.

The inconveniences which I am led to apprehend by our acquiring the supremacy over Queda arise from the certainty of its becoming sooner or later necessary for us to interfere in the affairs of the Native Government. This principality is under our immediate eye. The national character will be implicated in its good or bad government, and that it will be ill governed, and our powerful support to the Sovereign employed as an instrument for the oppression of his subjects, is what may reasonably be expected, not only from the example of all former cases of a similar nature, but from the barbarous character of the people and the evil habits of their rulers. Such a state of things might ultimately lead to the necessity of assuming the direct management of the country, and thus involve the the question of territorial extension over a country destitute of natural resources, of singular poverty, and of which the sovereignty could serve no purpose, but to involve us in a needless and heavy expense.

Even in the personal character of the present Raja of Queda we have nothing to hope should he be restored, for it is admitted by his own friends that his oppressive and rapacious conduct had long lost him the affections of his subjects, that this encouraged the invasion of the Siamese, and that it was in short the principal cause which led to the loss of his throne.

The Raja of Ligor was implicitly bound and actually obeying the orders of the Wangna and of his party at Bangkok when he came into contact with the Government of Prince of Wales Island and as his son is appointed Governor of Queda and his followers enjoy other benefits there, His Highness has of course now a greater interest against the restoration of the Malayan Government. But nothing could be fairer or more natural in him and his friends at Bangkok, than to exert themselves, as they did most strenuously, to counterbalance the failure of the Mission in this Queda question by securing it success in all the other objects from which they did not derive the same immediate profit. The Envoy always experienced the greatest assistance and relief in addressing an acute and intelligent person like the Raja of Ligor, acquainted with our customs and character, instead of the vain, arrogant and ignorant Siamese Ministers, and many of the communications of the Envoy were in consequence made directly to the King of Siam through the Raja of Ligor. This maintenance of friendly communication with that Chief has been condemned by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, which declares that His Highness should, on the contrary, have been held up to the Siamese Ministers as a most troublesome neighbour to the British, and as the person of all others most likely to bring on a rupture between the two Governments. But thus to attack or denounce the Raja of Ligor was the best possible way of raising him in the estimation of the Court of Siam and of increasing his influence.

On two or three occasions the Envoy did apply very strong language against His Highness, and although it vexed the Chief at the time, the Envoy found that such conduct on his part was afterwards matter of secret joy to the Raja. Not he only, but every other Siamese Chief dreads nothing so much as the imputation of cultivating intimacy with a European. Those who privately gave the Envoy most assistance often entreated him not to speak well of them to others and sometimes before their superiors gratuitously aspersed him. The Raja of Ligor lived in incessant apprehension of being charged with cultivating too great an intimacy with the Mission. He on one occasion traduced the Envoy to the Wang-na in the presence of a person who reported it to the Mission, and whose veracity we had no reason to doubt; and His Highness was afraid to call upon the Envoy, or to allow his family to visit that of the Envoy, although at Ligor the most cordial civilities had passed between them. To hold His Highness up to the Court of of Siam as a most troublesome neighbour to us, would have tended only to strengthen his credit, and if the Government of Prince of Wales Island is still anxious to counteract and to destroy His Highness's influence at Bangkok, the Mission can recommend no more certain mode than to draw him on at Queda, into such close and friendly relation with us, as he is disposed to maintain when distant from his jealous and mistrustful Court. But no member of the Mission or any officer who has ever seen the Rajah of Ligor, can adopt the sentiments entertained against him by the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

We may repeat here what was said in the first part of the report. The Mission found the Court of Siam divided into two parties, and headed respectively by the King and Wangna. The King's party is intelligent, moderate and really well disposed to cultivate friendly relations with the British Government.

His Majesty was described to be favorable to our wishes with respect to Queda. But the Wangna's party is characterized by the conceit, ignorance and arrogance natural to the Siamese, and His Highness, under whose special superintendence the southern portion of the Siamese Empire is placed, and into whose separate treasury are received all the revenues of Queda, was most decidedly opposed to the restoration of the Malay Chief of Queda. Every attempt that we made to press this subject on the Court irritated and exasperated His Highness, who, we heard, sent down orders to fortify Queda, and who, on one occasion, as we learnt from a source to which we could not refuse credit, although we ridiculed the intelligence at the time, proposed to the Ministers to hang up the Envoy, for presuming to vex the Court with representations concerning Queda, contrary to the tenor of the Governor General's letter to the King of Siam and therefore, it was to be believed, without any authority from His Lordship. The Wangna is an important personage in the Siamese Government. He is not only in special charge of the southern portion of the Kingdom, but he is at the head of its military establishment. He must be consulted by the King's Ministers on all public acts of His Majesty. He has his own Court and Ministers corresponding in number and duties with those belonging to the King, and he receives one Third of the whole Revenue of the kingdom. To render such a personage discontented with our negotiations would perhaps have been only to lay the foundation of a war between the two States. The only treaty to be made with such a State as Siam is clearly one which it will be her interest and advantage to keep. By adopting a high tone, that is, by intimidation, supposing such a mode of negotiation to have been consistent with the instructions of the Envoy, the Mission perhaps might have carried the Queda question, but it would have carried nothing else, and whether such a mode of accomplishing that

object would have been ultimately an advantage to the British Government has already been shown. Sound policy as well as the orders of the Governor General in Council pointed out, that unless the Mission could effect the restoration of the King of Queda by amicable negotiation, and make an arrangement by which it would be to the interest of the Siamese to abide, the point had much better be conceded.

The Mission had to make its selection to place our relations with the Siamese either on a conciliatory and friendly, or an unsettled and hollow footing. Hence amicable, though at times rather importunate, representations were all it considered itself justified to make, and when these failed advantage was taken of the influence of the party immediately benefited by such failure, to render it less mischievous to our interests, and to effect the other objects of our Mission. Whatever might have been the real intentions of the Rajah of Ligor when he was persuaded in the Treaty concluded with him at Queda, to promise to assist the Envoy towards accomplishing the views of the Penang Government relative to the King of Queda, there is no question that on his arrival at Bangkok, he was obliged, like every other Provincial Siamese Governor or Subordinate Chief, to adopt implicitly and religiously the views and feelings of the leading Members of the Court.

The primary and most important object of the Mission to Siam as viewed by the Governor General in Council was the maintenance of harmony between two States which had suddenly come into contact, whose armies were in contiguity, and whose subjects of difference and dispute were so likely to arise and become matter of hostile contention. The other objects which the Mission was impowered to endeavour to attain at Bangkok, in the event only of circumstances proving favorable were an improvement in

our commercial relations with Siam, and the restoration of the King of Queda. But respecting these objects the Supreme Government observed " we have so little at present to offer in the way of equivalent that we consider it vain to hope that any advantages beyond those above specified can be gained by negotiation. Indeed, we do not very clearly perceive how the Government of Siam and the Rajah of Ligor will ever be persuaded to forego the profit which it seems they derive from the direct occupation of Quedah, unless we are prepared to tender Tavoy or Mergui as an inducement." The Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island had proposed the cession of a portion of the coast of Tenasserim to the Siamese as the equivalent for the main object desired in the direction of Prince of Wales Island, and during Captain Burney's Mission to Pungah, he had ascertained that the only means of restoring the King of Queda would be to make the general advantages to be derived by the Court of Siam in other Quarters, outweigh the more immediate views of the Wangna, and Rajah of Ligor, unless we could offer to those Chiefs some more equivalent compensation than the 4,000 Dollars per annum proposed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island. When therefore the Supreme Government determined against holding out to the Siamese any distinct expectation of our ceding to them the Province of Tavoy or Mergui it virtually gave up the Raja of Queda.

Those who will take the trouble of comparing the account of the Malay States and of the conduct, character and claims of the King of Queda given in this paper, with that drawn up by an officer of the Government of Prince of Wales Island, will find that the latter omits all notice to be found in the Malay Annals and in the reports of the early European Voyagers and travellers of the ancient connection of Siam with the Peninsula of Malacca, and of the former

condition of the Petty States on it, and he produces such circumstances only as may lead the British Government into a forcible interference in favor of the King of Queda and into a participation in the concerns and interests of Siam and the whole of the Malay States.

The Copy of the Malay Annals from which the compiler of the "Account of the very early Malayan Establishments on the Peninsula of Malacca" has made his extracts, appears to differ from that translated by Dr. Leyden and edited by Sir Stamford Raffles in not containing the following sentences: Siam in ancient times "had all the regions under the wind depend on it," and "formerly Pahang was an extensive Country Dependent on Siam." See pages 34 and 36 of that Account and pages 121 and 135 of Leyden's Malay Annals.

The Government of Prince of Wales Island instructed the Envoy to Siam to secure the four following points:

1st. The restoration of the King of Quedah.

2ndly. The withdrawal of the Siamese from Perak.

3rdly. The prevention of further conquests by the Siamese over the Malayan States on either side of the Peninsula. The consequent maintenance of the independence of those States and exclusion of the Siamese power from contact with the British Settlements in the Straits; and

4thly. The Establishment of a more free intercourse and trade with the interior and Eastern side of the Malayan Peninsula by means of the overland routes and numerous rivers flowing into the sea in the neighbourhood of Penang.

The Mission has certainly failed in the first, but the second and fourth of the above-mentioned objects have been fully accomplished and it was hoped that

the third point would appear to have been attained completely as far as Perak and Salengore were concerned, and partially as far as the British interests are involved in the maintenance of the present Government of Tringano and Calantan. The Government of Prince of Wales Island however has been pleased to decide that " in all matters connected with the Malay Peninsula the Mission must be considered in some degree to have failed and that the state of our relations with our neighbours is not materially improved by the result."

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt.
Late Envoy to the Court of Siam.

FORT WILLIAM
2d. December 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 242.

FORT WILLIAM 22d. December 1826.

No. 18.

To A. STIRLING Esqre.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

The Right Honble. the Governor General is already apprized of the arrival of Captain Burney the Envoy to the Court of Siam, with the Treaty concluded with that State, a copy of his voluminous report having been transmitted to you with my letter of the 8th Instant.

2. The Vice President in Council concurring in the opinion expressed by the Honble. the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island in his letter of the 5th October that the Treaty should be ratified by the Supreme Government, I am now directed to transmit it herewith for the signature of the Governor General in the event of its also receiving His Lordship's concurrence; and to state that under all the circumstances detailed by the Envoy in his clear and very able report, His Excellency in Council considers that officer to have acted [with] great judgment and address, and to have carried every point which, under the circumstances alluded to, the Court of Siam could be expected to concede.

3. When the Treaty shall have been returned, ratified by the Governor General, the Vice President in Council will lose no time in dispatching Captain Burney (on the Brig Guardian retained for that purpose) to Queda, where he is to exchange it with the Rajah of Ligore's son, who is to deliver to Captain Burney the counterpart ratified by the King of Siam.

4. On the exchange of the ratified copies of the Treaty at Queda, the Mission of Captain Burney, His Excellency in Council presumes, will terminate. It

appears desirable, however, that an Officer so well acquainted with the Siamese character and language should continue to be employed where those qualifications may be called into action, and as the Civil Commission for the Tenasserim Provinces has applied for farther aid in consequence of the departure of his Assistant, Captain Briggs, from Mergui, the Vice President in Council conceives, that it may be expedient to direct Captain Burney to proceed to Mergui, and assume the Civil Charge of the southern portion of the British possessions in that quarter under the direction of the Civil Commissioner.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. SWINTON
Acting Chief Secy. to Govt.

Fort William
22d. December 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 348.

FORT WILLIAM 1st June 1827.

Secret Dept.

No. 57.

Prince of Wales Island,
23rd. April 1827.

Envoy to Siam
To George Swinton Esqre.
Secy. to Government.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to report my arrival at this settlement on the 16th Instant. I touched at Queda on my passage from Tavoy, and learnt that the Rajah of Ligor, with the copy of the Treaty bearing the King of Siam's Seal, is at Merdilong, where he has been awaiting my return during the last two and a half months. An express was immediately dispatched to him, and I hope to meet His Highness at Queda or at Trang in the course of 15 or 20 days and exchange the ratifications of the Treaty.

I found the Siamese at Queda and the whole country around in a state of great alarm at the additional troops which had arrived here from Fort St. George. The partizans of the Ex-King of Queda had been most active in circulating a report that this force had been collected for the purpose of attacking Siam, and that the local Government was waiting only for my arrival with the necessary orders from Bengal to commence the attack. The consequence of this report was, that the petty *Chulia* and Chinese traders had fled from Queda, and all trade in that country was at a stand; whilst the Rajah of Ligor, with his son, the Chief of Merdilong, and the Chief of Singora, is now collecting levies, and making preparations on the frontiers of Queda in order to oppose the progress of the expected attack from Penang. I have several letters from the Rajah of Ligor entreating me in the

most earnest terms to explain to him the object of this additional force and the cause of my long delay.

Upon my arriving and refuting these reports, others of a more mischievous character were circulated and propagated, in order to exasperate the animosity of the King of Queda and his followers, and to intimidate me. It was said, that I had orders from the Supreme Government to remove the King of Queda from the Island forcibly and that it was my intention to take an opportunity of seizing his Highness's person, during an interview which I would propose to seek as as a friend. I visited the Ex-King however, and I hope convinced him of the utter groundlessness of such a charge, and I am satisfied that if the expediency and advantage of his removal be seriously urged on his Highness, by the officers of this Government, he will consent to proceed to Malacca. I have no hesitation in adding, that the absolute necessity for removing him from this Island appears to me now demonstrated beyond all doubt.

I am happy to report that some late accounts and letters which I have received from Bangkok through Messrs. Hunter and Malloch, who have just come down, and from Mr. Carlos de Silveira, convince me that the Government of Siam is impressed with a most anxious desire to cultivate a friendly intercourse with the British Government. Every facility was afforded to Messrs. Hunter and Mallock to recover their debts, and the Government offered to them, as well as to some Surat traders, the benefits of the treaty lately concluded. In consequence however of their having made their sales according to the old system, upon the responsibility of the Government, they declined on this occasion to take advantage of this liberty of free trade. Mr. Carlos de Silveira, as he writes to me himself, had been seized and imprisoned, principally for having contracted debts beyond his means of payment,

and the King of Siam had ordered him to be decapitated, when the Wangna and some of the Ministers appealed to the treaty concluded with the British Government, and declared that it was therein stipulated that no European should suffer death for any offence but murder. * * *

I do myself the honor to enclose copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Secretary to this Government and myself, and I trust His Excellency the Right Honorable the Vice President in Council will approve of the terms of my answer to the question proposed for a distinct opinion from me. In my humble judgment the question was unnecessary, and in answering it I felt all the necessity of steering clear of all points that might have drawn me into a controversial correspondence.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain
Envoy to Siam.

No. 58. To Captain Burney
Envoy to Siam.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant reporting your arrival.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council having perused the letter from Mr. Secretary Swinton dated 23d. February with its enclosures, has directed me to make the following communication to you.

3. Of the expediency of inducing the Ex-King of Queda to seek another residence, and of the effects of his proximity to his late Kingdom, no doubt can be entertained. Every effort should therefore be made, and indeed has been already made, to prevail on him to remove to Malacca under the protection of this Government.

4. The Board adverting to the instructions addressed to you by Mr. Secretary Swinton, by which it seems to be intended that the communication to the Ex-Rajah should be made by you, requests that you will take the earliest opportunity of communicating to His Highness the decision of the Supreme Government, as contained in the 4th Paragraph of the letter to your address under date the 23d February.

5. Should all arguments however fail to induce the Ex-Rajah voluntarily to quit this Island, the Honorable the Governor in Council presumes it is not contemplated to resort to compulsive measures, and is of opinion that it would be preferable to forego the benefit of the corresponding provision of the treaty, rather than to have recourse to actual expulsion.

6. From the general tenor of the communication received from the Supreme Government it may be inferred that the independence of Perak is to be sup-

ported against all attempts of Ligor, open or indirect; but the papers contain no decided instructions on the case. I am instructed therefore to refer this point to you, and to desire that you will state distinctly your opinion, whether it be understood that under the 14th article of the Treaty this Government is to oppose such attempts, either against Perak or Salengore, by actual force.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON
Secretary to the
Government.

FORT CORNWALLIS
the 18th April 1827.

No. 58 Contd.

To

JOHN ANDERSON Esqre.
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Instant, and to state that I have this day complied with the request of the Honble. Board by communicating to the Ex-Rajah of Queda the decision of the Supreme Government as contained in the 14th paragraph of the letter to my address under date the 23d February. His Highness gave me reason to hope, that the measure of obtaining his consent to proceed to Malacca or Singapore, may be accomplished by the Honble. the Governor in Council directing the officers, who may be in His Highness's confidence, seriously to reiterate the arguments, which prove a removal as most advantageous to his own interests under existing circumstances.

With respect to the point which the Honble. Board has referred for a distinct opinion from me "whether it be understood under the 14th Article of the Treaty that this Government is to oppose all attempts of Ligor, open or indirect, either against Perak or Salangore, by actual force," I beg leave to state, that that article gives us a right, but does not make it our duty, to maintain the independence of those petty States; and as to the extent to which the Honble. Board may exercise that right, a consideration of the following points will, I hope, serve to determine.

The second article of the Treaty provides generally the course to be adopted, in the case of any infraction of the treaty, or other cause of offence, on the part of the Rajah of Ligor and the Siamese. In an extreme but improbable case of menaced or actual aggression against ourselves, we must, of course, revert to first principles of self defence. But in all other cases, I conceive, a representation to Bengal ought to

precede the employment of actual force. Moreover, until a decision be received from the Home Authorities of the question, which has been referred to them, as to the degree of interference we ought to use in favor of the Malay States on the Peninsula it will, I presume, be advisable to refrain from the employment of actual force in this matter, or from any measures calculated to commit the British Government to ulterior proceedings.

No measures shall be left untried, when I meet the Rajah of Ligor, to impress upon him the danger of his engaging in any open or indirect attempts against the peace and Government of Perak and Salangore, and I trust that the same decisive declaration of the sentiments of the British Government, which stopped the progress of his armament in 1825, will, if it be again made, again cause him to desist.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain.
Envoy to Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 346.

FORT WILLIAM 29th June 1827.

Secret Dept. No. 32.

EXTRACTS from my Private Journal relative to events which happened after the departure of Captain Burney in July 1826, to the period of my quitting Bangkok the 20th March 1827.

The Prah Klang was employed from 26th July to the 30th Novr. 1826 at Paknam and Paclaat repairing the forts, mounting guns, as they were sent down from Bangkok where they have been engaged casting them for the last 12 months, and driving piles from the small Fort in the middle of the river at Paknam to the opposite shore to prevent ships passing outside of it, by which they would be subject to the whole fire of the great guns from the large fort at Paknam. The King, attended by about 100 Princes and men of rank, proceeded to inspect the Prah Klang's operations, and returned the same evening seemingly highly pleased with them. There are about 200 guns of various shapes and sizes in the large fort at Paknam, and nearly as many at Paclaat. The greater part of these were cast at Bangkok, and from the number already burst in trying them (1 in 3) they are fearful the rest will also burst, and are consequently extremely anxious to procure a supply of Europe guns. The 18 small forts round the Palace grounds at Bangkok have no guns mounted.

On the 18th September the brother of the Prah-Klang Pya Si Phipad, acting in his absence at Paknam called us to witness that the Nocqueadahs of the Surat Brigs Hamoody and Naccerne wished to dispose of their cargoes according as they had formerly done from a fear of giving offence to their employers, as the new treaty, they said, had not been known to them, altho' at the same time they were sure that a saving of at least 4000 ticals each would have been made by abid-

ing by it, besides other advantages: Pya Si Phipad and other Government officers then present expressed their anxious desire to put the Treaty into effect in the present instance, and made particular enquiries of us whether any deviation, at present, from the Treaty, would displease the Bengal Government, and so fearful were they of this being the case, that they required our signing a paper, specifying the wishes of the Nocqueadahs to abide by the old Treaty which we of course did, and at the same time explained to them, that as the treaty had not been ratified by the Governor General in Council there was no necessity for putting it in force until it was. The Prah-Klang was also very desirous when the bark, Mary Ann Sophia, arrived in December to carry us away to get us to follow the new Treaty, but as she had very little import cargo and the duty on the export one having been previously settled, it would not have suited us to have gone by it.

It is a common saying at Bangkok when the Nocquedah of a Surat vessel arrives that he will be sure to cry before he leaves, for the hard treatment which he will experience, but the last year they had enjoyed greater privileges, and tho' not quite satisfied on leaving, yet sufficiently so not to draw tears. From what I remarked last year with regard to the trade with the Surat vessels, and experienced myself in many instances after the departure of Captain Burney, I have reason to believe that a British Merchant arriving with a cargo of suitable goods for the Siam Market would be allowed to dispose of them without undergoing all those difficulties to which they were so much subject before, in being compelled to sell to and purchase from the Government. Yet it cannot be expected that all their ancient customs so long and strictly adhered to should be given up at once. Time and better intercourse may effect a change, and then we may enjoy similar privileges to the Chinese in

being allowed to go up the Country to purchase goods. These people carry on a very lucrative trade from many part of China and Hainan, and as I know the shop keepers to be generally a very honest well disposed set of people I have no doubt when their fears of us begin to abate, for at present they actually consider us no better than Pirates, that 3 or 4 vessels might be annually employed with valuable cargoes amounting to 2,000,000 Ticals with much advantage as the taste of the Siamese for European commodities daily increase. I do not hesitate to assert that there is no place to which I would sooner venture a small capital than Siam, and its adjacent parts, touching at Tringano, Calantan &c. on my way thither.

Since the accession of his present Majesty to the throne, he has abandoned the idea of trading himself, and it is only owing to the Prah-Klang and his brother, Prah Si-Phipad's ambitious views, more particularly those of the latter, that merchants have met with obstacles in the freedom of trade. A British Merchant finds besides the Native Christians * and Chulias a very great annoyance. Of the former there are 1000, and those I have always known to be the dirtiest, laziest and most unconscionable villains, uniting chicanery with prevarication, and to deal with whom the British Merchant finds all his care and

* These people with exception of 5 or 6, are all very poor, and support themselves entirely by fishing, and whatever they do not use is sold to purchase rice which is very plentiful and cheap. The Siamese themselves have no aversion to any one differing from them in religion, and the Court is formed both of Chinese, Malays, Chulias, Bengales, Christians, Cochin Chinese, Laos &c. and many of them hold very high employments, and are much beloved. I know several Chinese at Bangkok who have become Siamese and cut their tails off. The Chinese immediately after their arrival adopt the manners of the Siamese and burn their dead. Upwards of 2000 Chinese annually arrive from Bokira and Hainan and a very few from Canton.

attention extremely requisite. They are so much attached to the Government that they withhold all information which they may in any way consider detrimental to it. The greatest hatred of us prevails amongst the other class (Chulias) from motives of religion and they take great delight in doing us all the mischief they can. The most of them are employed under the Government and as Shop-keepers.

The Siamese eat indiscriminately all kinds of food used by Europeans. The Prah Klang's family frequently dined with us and conducted themselves extremely well.

It is only with a great deal of perseverance and patience that a British Merchant visiting Siam can overcome the obstacles in trade, for the Siamese delight in dallying to gain advantages and put a person off his guard, and if he is of a hasty and irritable disposition, and make use of any abusive or insulting language, or offer to strike any of them, they will immediately go away and put a stop to business for several days, but by firmness and forbearance he will more speedily succeed.

The result of the Burmese war has made a total revolution in their ideas of the British power, which from the reports of the junks from Penang and Singapore they have hitherto considered as very trifling. The conclusion of the Treaty has insured their respect for the British Government, to please which appears at present to be a very great object with them. After Captain Burney's departure their fears of the appearance of British troops was so great, that all our attempts to quiet them were unsuccessful. Their belief in astrology only adds to their timid fears, as they say it is decreed and written in their Books that the English will conquer Siam, and they think that it will ultimately be the case. I was told after the departure of the Mission, that a letter had been suspended to a

tree on the frontiers by some Peguers warning them that the British had resolved on invading the country immediately, and the masters of the Penang and Singapore junks arriving at the same time this communication reached Bangkok, confirmed the report, by stating that a hostile fleet was ready to sail from Singapore to attack them. This had caused the greatest confusion, for they are naturally so credulous that the Chinese take great delight in relating the most ridiculous stories, which gains immediate belief, a circumstance which these crafty people turn to good account, by commanding privileges they would otherwise find unattainable, as well as with a view of inculcating a bad spirit in the Siamese against us, of whom they are extremely jealous, and think we encroach too much upon their trade. Any favorable mention of us would not be credited. Their minds have been so long biassed by false reports that to attempt to contradict them, would be useless. A stranger on his arrival is immediately questioned about the English. If his reply is in their favor, he is told with apparent displeasure by the Government officers that he is a friend of the English.

Even a short time before my leaving Bangkok, I was interrogated by several of the Shop Keepers, whether there was any truth in the general rumour of which their officers constantly spoke. I did all in my power to remove so dangerous a feeling, and told them it was only the mischievous Chinese, who from jealous motives made these false representations, which appeared to please them much. On asking them what they would do if attacked, they replied that they would all run up the country, and which I believe will be the case from their cowardly disposition, for I have frequently seen one Burman beat off 3 or 4 Siamese, both on the river and on shore and take what fish, rice &c. he wanted, which the Burmese captives are allowed to do to a certain extent. They

levy a contribution of a few cowries from each person's boat, to which the Siamese as well as Chinese are invariably obliged to submit. These poor creatures are kept in heavy irons and constantly employed ditching, building, sawing timber, brick making &c. and are badly fed; their appearance is consquently miserable.

So great an effect has the Burman War produced on the minds of the Siamese, that since the middle of August 1825 three War Boats commanded by Native Pilots were ordered to cruize outside the bar and report the arrival of all ships before they passed, and the injunctions were so strict that any negligence only led to the decapitation of the Pilots. On our departure from the Country we still left them cruizing.

About 2 months after the departure of the Mission we found it necessary to make sundry presents to the Prah Klang, his brother Pya Si Phipad and 2d. Prah Klang to regain their good will, which the presence of the Mission had somewhat abated. This induced them to assist us in the disposal of our stock of goods.

The Catin or great holidays which commence at the new moon in October and last for 30 days, during which time the King appears 6 or 7 days in visiting the Pagodas and the Forts at Paknam and Paclaat. The King however intends reducing the number of days devoted to this festival as he thinks them too great a waste of time which might be usefully employed in the administration of Government and their various callings.

On the 4th of November information reached me by several people of the Siamese having partly filled up the river at the mouth of the Meklong, leaving but a small space sufficient to admit small vessels only drawing 10 feet water and that they entertained some idea of doing something with the bar at Paknam to prevent large ships getting over.

On the 11th November three small junks arrived from Cochin China with cargoes of sundries, and letters from that Government to assist the person in charge in the disposal of his goods. The principal attended by the Masters of the other two Junks and twelve followers proceeded to wait upon the Prah Klang, but before they had passed the outer gate of his dwelling house were stopped and detained for 20 minutes, until a message from His Excellency told them that he could not see them that night. They returned seeming displeased, but without expressing their disappointment. I mention this from its having been rumoured that this petty Mission had arrived to claim assistance from the Siamese to quell a rebellion in Cochin China to raise another King, but my personal enquiries refuted this report.

In a conversation we held with the Prah Klang, he asked us whether the French were slaves to the English, but we told him to his great surprise that slavery was against the British Laws. He then asked us whether there had been as many as 40 men killed at the Battle of Waterloo. We told him that nearly as many thousand had been killed, at which he seemed thunderstruck, and uttered an exclamation of surprise.

The King has within the last 8 or 10 months erected an extensive shed covered with tiles about a mile up the Bazar river, nearly oppposite the Prah Klang's house, in which I counted 136 war boats 60 feet long 7 feet broad in the middle and 3½ feet at the stern, and capable of carrying about 30 men. A similar shed has been erected a very little distance in shore at Bangkok Noi river, nearly opposite the Palace, about a quarter of a mile up, 100 boats of the above description. Immediately above the Palace and on the same side with it, the Government have constructed smaller, but similar sheds to the above along the banks of the river. Several public buildings were also erecting by the Palace,

one of which was built a good deal after the English style. The King has issued orders that all the small buildings principally occupied by petty Shop Keepers &c. near the Palace should be immediately pulled down, and that no person should in future build there, who could not afford to erect a handsome one.

On the 16th March 1827 a large fire broke out near the Palace, by which upwards of 500 houses were destroyed, amongst which was one of the Palaces of a brother of his present Majesty. The Prince by this accident sustained a considerable loss, but as customary in the country, numerous presents were sent to him from all quarters, and it is thought that he like many others who have suffered in this way, will enrich himself.

Another very large fire on the 19th March occurred at his Majesty's magazines in the Bazar river, from a man having taken a light with him into it which occasioned the accident. It caused an immense explosion and I should think that not less than 1000 houses on both sides of the narrow river must have been burnt down. The King, Second King and Princes, with an immense crowd came to the spot, the former to render what assistance they could, but as in similar cases more confusion than regularity prevailed, and nothing was done of any consequence. Phia Phipad 2d PraKlang and one of the best men in the country had his house completely levelled with the ground, and lost a little boy at the same time, but saved all his money which was said to be very considerable.

When we left Bangkok I did not hear of any Burmese subjects of the British Government having been brought prisoners to that place, and I am of opinion that they will not now renew a system so inimical to their own interests, particularly under the dread in which they labour of the British power.

The annual revenue of Siam is estimated at 2½ millions of ticals, which is disbursed in the Payment of Government Servants and maintaining the Princes, said to be altogether about 2000, leaving but little in the Treasury in which I am told the sum of 1,00,000 Ticals has never been exceeded. The expenses incurred in the erection of Pagodas, Public Edifices &c. are paid by contributions levied on the inhabitants each according to his circumstances. A present sent by Messrs. Morgan Hunter & Co. to His Majesty of a quantity of iron railing was in consequence refused, altho' highly approved, knowing they would be obliged to make a suitable return. They therefore purchased it by the contributions of the people, each paying as above from 5 to 40 peculs of sugar. Every merchant and shop keeper is obliged to contribute towards the object for which the others are taxed.

One of the principal people possessing 20,000 and a shop keeper 10,000 Ticals would be considered rich. The Prah Klang and his brother Pya Si Phipad are amongst the richest in the country.

The interest of money in Siam is equal to 33 per cent. Per Annum.

A report got afloat after Captain Burney's departure that the Governor of Prince of Wales Island had seized upon Queda, which created great alarm at Bangkok. This was owing to the report of the master of a Chinese junk who said that an expedition was preparing to start from Penang when he left.

Pasquel Martin a Native Christian who visited Calcutta in the Guardian, said to have been sent by the Prah Klang to purchase diamonds &c. was, I have been informed by good authority, no more than a spy sent to ascertain the operations at different British Settlements and report them accordingly on his return, and the more unfavorable his reports are the more will

they be credited ; but he dare not say that he has seen anything superior to what is seen in Siam.

A merchant visiting Bangkok ought never to inform the Government or any other person what description of goods he wants, but on the contrary endeavour to mislead them, and continue purchasing what he really wants as opportunities offer. This measure will not only prevent the prices being raised, but keep the Government officers from compelling you to purchase from themselves, even if they wished it, by desiring the shop keepers &c. not to sell the description of goods he wants under a certain price.

The Siamese are the most contented quiet race of people I have ever known, and seldom ever quarrel or fight, and the climate being extremely fine they all enjoy most excellent health. They are also very honest and during my stay amongst them of nearly 3 years, few instances occurred of theft. They are however greatly given to lying, and their mean low cunning is beyond all description. One trait in their character is their extreme fondness for their children, to whose education they pay particular attention, and there are but few amongst the Coolies who cannot read and write, while most are even qualified to hold the highest appointments in the country. The lower orders are better and more civil than those of higher rank. All pay the greatest respect to the aged, and do not require so much crawling from them.

The Siamese had for a length of time wished for our departure, as they are utterly averse to the residence of any English amongst them, from the idea that they would report whatever occurred in it, therefore when they heard that we were on the point of leaving they appeared evidently very glad but as they wished to part with us on good terms their conduct was extremely kind and civil, and even Pomat, a natural brother of the Prah Klang's who is one of

the most annoying persons about the Court, visited us frequently and behaved very obligingly to us. Indeed every one endeavoured to serve us as much as they could, and on our departure we received a short complimentary letter of six lines from the Prah Klang to the House of Messrs. Morgan Hunter & Co. at Singapore, which occupied him and all his department three days to compose, and was afterwards submitted to His Majesty, and the other Ministers before it was sent to us. I only notice this here to give an idea of their alacrity in transacting business. I am however convinced, though we did all in our power to gain their good feelings during the time we remained in the country that they will never suffer any British Subjects to live entirely among them again. Before we left the Prah Klang, he expressed a desire to obtain some Burmese religious Books, for which he was going to send to Tavoy or Martaban. The Priests were then engaged in a new translation of their sacred books to present to His Majesty.

The Siamese have been casting a brass gun of 80 peculs, which had occupied, when we left, nearly 2000 men for two months, and it would take up two months more to finish it. The Princes and most of the people of rank were for some time busily employed in getting bellows made for the purpose.

We touched at Tringano on our way from Siam to Singapore on the 1st April last and when we landed found several of the principal people ready to receive us, which they did with much cordiality, and introduced us to the Sultan who was also extremely kind. He made many enquiries respecting the conduct of the Siamese, and the Treaty concluded by Captain Burney, expressing great pleasure with that part of it which related to himself and his country, and seemed anxious to know when it was the intention of the British Government to invade the country, saying

that he as well as the Rajah of Kelantan would lend his assistance with troops. We explained to him that it was not the intention of the British Government to attack or molest the Siamese but to be on good terms with them. A captain of a trading vessel from Kelantan informed me that similar enquiries had been made at that place and that the Raja appeared equally displeased with the Siamese, and had said that he would not in future pay any more tribute to them.

In Tringano there is	Tin	2,000	Peculs	
„ „	„ Pepper ...	4,000	„	
„ „	„ Gold dust			and
at Kelantan	„ Pepper ...	12,000	„	

In accordance with a long established custom at Siam, the King ordered the Prah Klang to see that all who owed us debts should pay them before we left, that his own should also be discharged, and that an allowance should be made to us for any detention we we might experience on this account.

The Siamese from the dread of a rebellion will not keep up a standing army, but raise conscripts in event of a war.

It is very difficult to ascertain the population of Siam, but I have been informed that it amounts to about 5 millions under following distribution.

Siamese, Laos, &ca.	3½ millions
Chinese	1½ millions

throughout the whole kingdom. At Bangkok alone there are 1,00,000 but the greater part are Chinese.

It were unnecessary to add anything more to a place already so well known as Siam.

(Signed) D. E. MALLOCH.

Calcutta 14th June 1827.

No. 33. OMISSION in the Extracts of my Journal.

The Prah Klang, a short time before we left Bangkok had an elephant, which having become white, was presented to His Majesty. This and the manner he conducted the Treaty and the affairs at Paknam and Paclaat had given so much satisfaction that he will shortly be promoted to the rank of Chakri or Prime Minister, and his brother Pya Si Phipad be made Prah Klang. The present Prime Minister it is said will be allowed to retire with superior rank and an annual allowance.

(Signed) D. E. MALLOCH.

Printed for private circulation.

THE

BURNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

PART V.

(February 1825 to October 1827.)

Printed by order of the Vajirañāṇa National Library.

BANGKOK

1912.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 660, p. 343.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the

Honorable the Court of Directors.

Honorable Sir,

* * * * * *

Para. 8. The Accounts from the Countries to the South East of Rangoon continue to be most satisfactory. An Embassy of Talliens (the ancient Peguers) who have long lived under the Siamese Government, having been driven from their Native Country by the cruelty and oppression of the Burmans, was on its way to the Head Quarters of the British Force. They stated that they came with the full sanction and approbation of His Siamese Majesty, who, they declared, was ready to act in conjunction with the British, should such be our wish, by ordering a corps of observation of Thirty thousand men, now stationed upon the Burmese Frontier, to move upon any given point in the enemy's dominions. For the further particulars of this Mission and the proclamation issued by Brigadier General Sir Archibald Campbell, we must beg leave to refer to the Dispatches themselves.

* * * * * *

We have &c.

AMHERST.

EDWD. PAGET.

JOHN FENDALL.

Fort William

25th February 1825.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, Vol. 666, pp. 221-4 (3d set of paging).

To

G. Swinton Esq.

Secretary to Government Political

Department.

FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

Since the transfer of this Settlement to the British Government, I have not considered it necessary to trespass upon the time of the Right Hon. the Governor General in Council with any observations on its connection with the Malayan States on the Peninsula of Malacca, as I was at the time of my appointment, in full expectation of receiving thro' the Government of Prince of Wales' Island definitive information on the subject, which I was aware had been referred to the Supreme Government from thence in a special reference to the gradual and increasing extension of Siamese Dominion in these parts.

2d. My attention has been recalled to it by the receipt of Dispatches from Penang detailing the progress of the very overwhelming force with which the Rajah of Ligore is preparing to attack Salangore, and if accounts given of the magnitude of that force are, in but a minor degree correct, it is certainly sufficient to excite the greatest vigilance, not unmixed with apprehension, as to its ultimate objects being far more serious, than the subjugation of an inconsiderable and decayed Malay State governed by a Prince, weighed down with age and infirmity, and whose whole force is reported not to exceed five or six hundred fighting men both on land and at sea.

* * * * * *

5th. Until I have the honor to receive instructions for my guidance I shall adhere to the general tenor of the Supreme Government's instructions to the Government of Prince of Wales Island on the in-

vasion of Kedah. Any observations from me on the general question of permitting the subjugation of the Peninsula and its annexation to Siam as a Province, must with reference to the ample information already before His Lordship in Council, be quite superfluous, and it has been this reflection which prevented me from addressing you at an earlier period. Should the Chou Pia of Ligor commence actual hostility on any part of the British territories, I shall proceed without delay to commence such provisional arrangements with the neighbouring states as their chiefs may be willing to accede to for the promotion of the common cause and for the safety of Malacca in particular; but in so doing I should be careful to make it clearly understood that any thing done by me must depend altogether on the future pleasure of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, acquainting them that I am not vested with any power whatever to form Political engagements.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. S. CRACROFT

Actg. Resk.

Malacca the

18th June 1825.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, Vol. 666, pp. 1-7 (3d set of paging).

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

In a dispatch to the address of the Honorable the Court of Directors dated 30th January 1824. we brought to the notice of the Honorable Court the particulars of a dispute which had arisen between the Government of Prince of Wales's Island and the Siamese Authorities at Kedah, regarding the plunder and murder of an inhabitant of the former Settlement by subjects of the latter, and likewise the alarm which prevailed among the native inhabitants of Penang, in consequence of an apprehended invasion by the Rajah of Ligor, who was very generally reported to be preparing an armament to make a descent on the Island for the purpose chiefly of destroying or carrying off the Ex-King of Kedah residing there under our protection.

2. From the papers now laid before you, your Honorable Committee will observe that those alarms and reports have been of late revived with redoubled force; and that a flotilla of armed prows carrying a considerable body of Siamese soldiers actually made its appearance on the Kedah Coast in may and June last, ostensibly for the purpose of settling a dispute with the petty independent Malay State of Salangore which lies between Perak and Malacca. The Government of Prince of Wales's Island judged it necessary, in consequence of the assemblage of so unusual a force in its immediate neighbourhood and the apprehensions excited by it, to assume an attitude of preparation and defence, and to remonstrate strongly with the Rajah of Ligore on the subject of his proceedings, and in compliance with the urgent application of that Government we considered it a prudent measure of precaution, to provide reinforcements both Naval and Military for the settlement, consisting of one Regiment of Native

Infantry and a Vessel of War; although we can scarcely believe that the Siamese authorities ever seriously contemplated so gross and daring an outrage as a descent on Prince of Wales's Island for the purpose of carrying off by force the person of the Ex-King of Kedah.

3. The correspondence to which we now solicit the attention of your Honorable Committee, embraces, besides the above subject, a discussion of the course of policy which it is expedient for the British Government to pursue towards Salangore and the other independent Malayan States in its vicinity, all more or less directly threatened with invasion and total subjugation by the Siamese Power. The Government of Prince of Wales's Island has stated very forcibly, and we believe correctly, the evils and inconveniences which must result to our interests as connected with the tranquillity and prosperity of the Settlements of Penang, Malacca, and Singapore from the impending destruction of the friendly Malay States and the establishment of the Siamese authority in their place. The continued succession of alarms, irritation, collision and angry discussions which have prevailed at Penang and Kedah since the conquest of the latter by the Rajah of Ligore is certainly a striking practical illustration of the prejudicial effects in a political point of view, which such a change in the internal Government of the Malayan Peninsula is calculated to produce. We are besides assured that the supplies of provisions and of valuable objects of commerce from the interior upon which the prosperity of our Settlements in that quarter much depends, will be completely intercepted by the establishment of the jealous, arrogant and monopolizing Government of Siam throughout the Peninsula.

4. Concurring to a considerable extent in the above view of the case, we still are not satisfied that in the existing state of our relations with the parties, we should be justified in opposing by force of arms the

extension of the Siamese dominion over the Independent Malay States, in order to avert these contingent and prospective evils. At all events in the actual conjuncture of affairs whilst our whole disposable force is so fully occupied in Ava, we could not for a moment contemplate engaging in hostilities with any of the Siamese Chiefs, or pursuing a course which might commit us to that extremity, unless under some peculiar emergency, such as an actual attack of Penang by the Rajah of Ligore. We have issued instructions accordingly in the above spirit to the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales's Island and have enjoined that Government to abstain from any further steps, beyond the remonstrance which they properly addressed to the Rajah of Ligore on the subject of his hostile movements against the Independent State of Salangore, and the declaration of their intention to refuse a passage to his armament through the straits of Penang for the purpose of attacking a friendly power in their neighbourhood.

5. We trust that our proceedings on this occasion will meet the concurrence and approbation of your Honorable Committee. We beg to add, that we shall feel thankful for any instructions which you may be pleased to communicate for our guidance on the general question of the policy to be pursued by the Power holding the Settlements of Prince of Wales's Island, Malacca, and Singapore, with reference to the designs of Siam against the States of the Malayan Peninsula.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

HONORABLE SIRS,
Your Most faithful,
Humble Servants,

(Signed) AMHERST
E. PAGET
J. H. HARINGTON

FORT WILLIAM
4th September 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 334.

FORT WILLIAM 9th December 1825.

To Captain H. Burney

Envoy to the Court of Siam.

Secret Dept.

No. 4.

Sir,

With reference to the personal communications which had passed between yourself and me respecting the negotiations at Perak and Salangore and the question of Siamese supremacy over the Malayan States in the Peninsula I think it right to apprize you that in the month of July last I dispatched a trusty native Agent with complimentary letters to the chiefs of Pahang, Tringano and Kalantan and with instructions to ascertain the present condition and circumstances of each of those States. He returned to Malacca with satisfactory replies from those Chiefs and with the following information.

Patrang in no wise acknowledges the supremacy of Siam nor have the Siamese yet disturbed its Government. The Chief there is called Bendatrara or minister of the Sultan of Johore and Pahang and has acknowledged a nominal dependance on that Sultan who was recognised by the British Government antecedent to the occupation of Singapore. It is now understood that a formal abdication on the part of the Prince referred to of all influence on the continent has been made in a treaty with the Netherlands authorities at Rhio and that the Rajah of Pahang will consider himself independent without permitting, as my messenger reports, the Sultan at Singapore or the Tummengong of Johore to come into the Rights abdicated by the Chief of Lingin and Rhio.

Tringano is at present settled in its Government under an old and very respectable prince who sends a Bungamas to Soongora to appease the demands which have been made on him by the Siamese for the last fifty years; the Sultan of Tringano was generally a

firm ally of the Dutch Government of Malacca when in possession of its controlling power and extended territory, but there does not appear to have been a revival of the ancient relations since the return of the Dutch in 1818. The old Sultan was most particularly civil to the messenger I sent and expressed himself strongly in favor of a close alliance with and even a dependence on the British Authorities at this Settlement as he is aware of the meditated subjugation of the Malay Peninsula by the Siamese of which nation there are several said to be already settled in his Territory.

* (sic !) Kalantan is in a very directed* and distracted state. The Rajah, between whom and his brother a civil war exists, sends a Bunga Mas to Ligor. You are aware that this is the chief who so earnestly solicited the interference of the Government of Prince of Wales Island three years ago the reply to which communication left him no path to pursue but that of submission to Siam, which from the report of my messenger, I learn he has made up his mind to; many Siamese are said to have established themselves at Kalantan and the Chief appeared to my messenger to be so much under their influence as to be afraid of expressing his real sentiments with respect to a closer alliance with the British Government.

I have &c.a.

(Signed) W. S. CRACRAFT

Acting Resident.

Malacca the
4th October 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 334. No. 20

FORT WILLIAM 25th Novr. 1825.

Singapore 8th of Octr. 1825.

To,

GEORGE SWINTON Esqr.

Secy. to Govt. in the Secret Dept.

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

Having deemed it my duty previous to my departure from Prince of Wales Island, to submit to the Honble. the Governor certain observations upon Mr. Andersons Reports of his Mission to Salengore and Perak, I do myself the honor to transmit to you enclosed a Copy of my Letter.

My impression of the Views and Sentiments of the Supreme Govt. is, that a good understanding should be established with the Siamese, and that at any rate, things should be kept quiet to the Eastward for the present. According to this impression I have been, and am acting, and believing that Mr. Anderson's Reports had an unnecessary tendency to aggravate the unfavourable feelings, which already exist at Prince of Wales Island against the Governor of Ligor, I endeavoured, by the Letter of which the enclosed is a Copy, to undertake the unpleasant task of moderating the effect of that Gentleman's representations. A reply, which I have not seen, was made by him to my observations: and it remains for me only to hope, that the Supreme Government will not adjudge me to have gone too far, in my anxiety to prevent at the present moment impressions against the Chief of Ligor being received, calculated only to keep alive angry feelings and mutual jealousy and distrust.

Solicit the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to observe that it was the unfavourable

Monsoon, after all that prevented the Governor of Ligor from directing his Boats to proceed to Perak and Salengore *outside* of Penang,—a route which we possessed no right to obstruct: and that my agreement with His Highness was limited to securing such a right, as well as the right of preventing him from passing a Force to the Southward *overland*,—another route which we could not have opposed. Having secured these, and stopped the immediate extension of the Siamese Power to the Vicinity of Malacca, of the undesirable consequences likely to result from which the Supreme Government expressed its conviction so far back as 1814, I had hoped that Negotiation with Perak and Salangore would have quietly foreclosed the operation of Siamese influence in that direction, and have deprived the Governor of Ligor, and every other Siamese Chief, of all opportunity of interneddling in future with those States in any manner. Unless we bound the weak Prince of Perak and his Chiefs to be true to themselves and to their Country against Siamese interference, our mediation, it appeared to me, would be of little advantage. I showed in my report of the 1st of August, that the Governor of Ligor and his Master consider Perak as a State tributary to Siam. No argument on my part, nor indeed has His Highness the power to do it, could prevail upon him to resign by express treaty this claim of Siam over Perak.

Instead however of entering into some stipulation on this point with Perak itself, it has been assumed that the Governor of Ligor's Agreement with me binds him against interfering in any manner whatever with Perak. If His Highness be thus held, that he has signed away the Siamese claim of Supremacy over that State, it is evident that Bang-kok will be the very last place in the world that he will choose to visit. Yet such a construction is put on the 3rd article of my agreement by some of the Officers of the Government of Prince of Wales Island and I am under much apprehension that declarations will be made by them, calcu-

lated to excite the alarm and distrust of the Governor of Ligor and to render him hostile to all my future proceedings. I shall see such an event with much regret, as I am daily more convinced that with a little management His Highness may be made useful to us at the present juncture. He has but just forwarded to Mr. Maingy through me, an open letter addressed to the New Governor of Chimpohun, intended to pave the way for a friendly understanding being established between him and our officer on the Coast of Tenasserim.

I beg leave to report that I have derived much useful information from Mr. Cracraft the Acting Resident at Malacca, and that I am now receiving instruction from Mr. Crawfurd, who has thrown open to me the great lights of his extensive knowledge and experience with a liberality and kindness of which it is impossible for me to express an adequately grateful sense.

I propose quitting this Settlement the day after to-morrow.

I have &ca. &ca.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Envoy to the Court of Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 334.
No. 7.

FORT WILLIAM 25th Novr. 1825.

SIAMESE NEWS.

In the commencement of the Burman War the Siamese never thought that the English would be able to Conquer the Country of the Burmans, but when Kan Tann arrived at Bang-kok, he brought with him 7 or 800 Prisoners, and reported that Rangoon, Tavoy, and Martaban were in the occupation of the English. When the King heard of this, he called a Council of his Ministers. On that Occasion he said to the Wangna (called the Second King by the Portuguese) "the Burmans with ten times our population have not been able to resist the English they are now very near to Siam and what shall we be able to do with our small force." The Wangna replied, "Siam has a numerous people to defend the Country, and besides many Chinese." The Prah Klang was of the same opinion as the Wangna. Kroma-Kun, and Kroma-Surin remained silent, considering what answer they should give. The opinion of the King was delivered in these words. "I think it right to continue in friendship with the English by doing which I shall remain a King and maintain possession of my Country. If I act otherwise, I shall lose my Throne, be driven into the forest and become food for Tigers. The English will never make war upon us without giving us notice thereof. We ought not to give them any opportunity of troubling us. I know very well that we must be ready to pay them such tribute as they demand. Then our Country will be quiet and we shall maintain our Laws, our Priests and our Gods for ever and ever." The Kings advice was approved by the following Mandarines—Pet-Pechai-Kroma-Surin, and Chao-fa. All the rest dissent.

The King of Siam sent three Armies to Martaban. Every one said that they were going to assist the English, but the Kings Orders were, that they should only

look on and keep neutral. The first Army consisted of 3000 Native Siamese under the Command of the Siamese General Susunah. The Second Army consisted of 6000 Mons (Taliens) under the orders of Pia Jotha*. The third Army consisted of 1000 Siamese under the orders of Than Luhun. The first Army returned to Siam, bringing with them Prisoners, Men, Women and Children to the number of about 700 Souls. This was the Army of Pia Susunah. The Second Army returned to Siam bringing 1150 Souls, cultivators of rice. This was the Army of Pia Jotha.

Thirty Burmans arrived at Bang-kok with a letter from the English General requiring the King to send the Prisoners back to rejoin their families. The King ordered his Mandarines to send some of the strongest back immediately, but commanded that the remainder should stay at Siam until the season of the rains should be over. His orders to Pia Inathep were, to register the stout men only who were able to travel during the rains, and not the whole, because among them were old men and children who might die from the fatigue of the journey.

Pia Inathep addressed a letter to the King which was seen by one of his Servants, who informed me of its contents. It was to this effect "Your Majesty has commanded me to register the Names of the Prisoners who are able to return to their Country during the rainy Season. Those among them who are desirous of returning are fit for your Majestys Service." The King answered that many people were receiving pay—that there was little for them to do, and he had need of no more.

Pia Inathep made out a list of 270 persons who had fled from Martaban and Tavoy ten or twelve years before. They all bribed Pia Inathep to insert their

* This was the Chief with whom Colonel Smith negociated, and whom I believe he calls Kun-Kun, probably his Peguan name or title.

names in the list, some to the extent of 200 ticals some of 150, some of 100, and some of 80. Those who could not pay were not allowed to quit Siam. The poor people had no opportunity to complain to the King of the injustice of the Mandarines.

When Pia Inathep the Prah Klang and Pomate are dead (in the original when they are burned) the country will be free for the English trade. But as long as they live it will be hard for the English to carry on their commerce, for these are against the English.

I had a conversation with two Mandarines in Bangkok who said they would be glad if the English took possession of the Country, and that they would rise in their favour with 18 or 20000 Men. I said "You must be patient, in time you will be under the English."

The King of Siam ordered a road to be made between Pak-nam (the mouth of the Menam) and Bangkok. The Wang-na counselled him that the road would be the loss of the City, for the English Troops would advance by it. The King approved of his advice, and directed rice to be planted on the road so as to make it impossible.

The King lately gave orders that all the Forts and 200 War boats should be repaired, and this was effected at my departure from Siam.

Three days after the arrival of Pia Jotha at Bangkok, it was said that the King had given orders to punish him. He was to return to Martaban, and there have his head cut off in the presence of the English General. In two days more a report was spread that he was dead, and all this is a *great lie*, for I can certify

that down to the moment of my quitting Siam, he was in good health and living quietly in his own house.

(True Copies and Translations)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

8th Octr. 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 334. No. 6. Poll. Dept.

FORT WILLIAM 25th Novr. 1825.

To GEORGE SWINTON Esqr.

Secy. to the Government

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

The British Ship Caroline which left Bang-kok on the 27th of August arrived at this Place on the 26th Ultimo. By her I have received the three papers annexed to this dispatch Vizt. a letter from the Prah-Klang or foreign Minister*—a letter from Mr. Gillies.* and a translation of a Portuguese paper. Mr. Gillies has himself arrived by this opportunity, as well as the author of the last mentioned document which was drawn out at this place at my request. The writer is an European Portuguese who had resided several years in Siam—who understands the Siamese language, and who having frequented many parts of the Kingdom has had necessarily better opportunities of observation than any Englishman visiting the Country whether officially or otherwise.

(* Copied and sent from Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 104.)

The different documents now laid before the Government afford fresh proof of the wily and crooked policy which so peculiarly characterizes the Court of Siam. The conclusion which I am inclined to draw from their perusal is of a similar tenour with that expressed in several of my recent reports, that the Siamese have the utmost apprehension of the British power—that under existing circumstances it is impossible to disabuse them on this subject while every attempt made towards it is liable to be misconstrued either through their excessive suspicion or ignorance, and finally that the Court entertains the most anxious desire to avoid all collision and even all political relation that might lead according to its own conception to a rupture with the British Government.

With regard to the seizure of Prisoners, this according to both the Burman and Siamese nations appears to be the usual and habitual mode of warfare. These captives are either retained as slaves or released on the payment of a large ransom, and hence the strong temptation to the practice. From all I can ascertain there is no ground to believe that the Court has authorized the seizure of the inhabitants of the provinces under the British protection which appears to have been the act of the inferior officers of the Neighbouring Siamese districts. This temptation to such depredations will continue so long as the extensive frontier of the Tenasserim province lies exposed as at present and while our small garrisons are confined to the Fortresses along the Coast. I make no doubt that the Measures pursued by the Honorable Mr. Fullerton on his arrival at Tavoy and Mergui will put an effectual stop to the mischievous proceedings of the Siamese Officers on the Tenasserim frontier, while the restoration of the Prisoners will be quietly brought about by the negociations of Captain Burney the Agent to the Governor General to the Court of Siam.

I have the honor to report the arrival of Captain Burney at this Place on the 6th Instant. I have furnished him here with all the information and assistance in my power and during his residence in Siam my earnest and anxious efforts will be applied to aid and support him during his negociation whenever opportunities may occur.

I have &ca. &ca.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

9th Octr. 1825.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, Vol. 660, p. 435.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the

Honorable the Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Consn. 16th Septr. 1825 Nos. 15 and 16.

Para. 5. On the proceedings of the annexed date, is recorded a translation of a letter from the Siamese Prime Minister addressed to the Officer Commanding at Mergui*, couched in the most friendly terms, apologizing for the acts of the local authority of the adjoining Siamese Territory in seizing some of the inhabitants of Mergui, and stating that the officer in question had been punished by imprisonment and removal from his Government. Translations also of the Siamese papers which accompanied Major General Sir Archibald Campbell's private letter dated the 6th August (an Extract from which was transmitted with our address of the 2d ultimo) are recorded on the proceedings of the annexed date. In these letters* the Siamese authorities state that such of the inhabitants of Martaban as had retired of their own accord, or been forcibly carried away into the territories of Siam, had received permission to return to their homes, and they express their earnest desire that a free intercourse and trade should be maintained between the two Countries.

* Copied. see Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol 383.

Consn. 7th Octr. 1825 Nos. 35 & 36.

* * * * * * *

Consn. 14th Octr. 1825 Nos. 4 & 5.

9. On the Consultation of the date noted in the Margin, are recorded some dispatches* from the Government of Prince of Wales Island in continuation of those already transmitted to Your Honorable Committee with our address of the 23rd. ultimo, reporting the success which has attended the negotiations with the Rajah of Salengore.* Your Honorable Committe will be happy to observe the friendly tone of the letter from the Rajah of Ligore to

* Only those marked X are copied.

Consn. 7th Octr. 1825, No. 33.

* Copied, dated 17 Aug. 1825.

the Governor of Prince of Wales' Island,* a disposition on the part of the former which we have instructed the Governor in Council of that Settlement to meet and cultivate on his part.

* * * * * *

We have &c.

AMHERST

COMBERMERE

J. H. HARRINGTON

Fort William

27th October 1825.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 339.

Sect. Dept. No. 70.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

To Captain Williamson

Deputy Political Agent with the Siamese

Auxiliary Army.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Pegu and Ava to inform you that a Treaty was yesterday concluded at this place with the negociators deputed from the Court of Ava, the solemn ratification of which by the King and Latoo is expected to arrive within fifteen Days from yesterdays date.

Under these circumstances it is necessary that you should direct the Commander of the Siamese Army (or advanced Force if the Army itself have not entered Pegu) to suspend his advance until you shall receive from the Commissioners intimation of the final conclusion of the Treaty being careful at the same time to apprize the Siamese authorities with whom you are placed in communication that a special Clause has been inserted in the Treaty by which they as the Allies of the British Government in India are admitted to the benefits of Peace if they think proper to avail themselves of them.

The commissioners desire that you will forward a copy of this Letter to Captain Burney at Bangkok or elsewhere with the utmost practicable Dispatch that that Officer may be enabled to communicate the intelligence above given without delay to the Court of Siam.

At the present juncture of affairs the Commissioners deem it to be specially incumbent upon you to use the utmost caution in all your communications with the Siamese authorities so as not to implicate Government by a pledge or promise of any description positively given or implied. The Commissioners rely with confidence upon your discretion and judgment to

avoid exciting hopes in the minds of the Siamese or the Taleen exiles which it may perhaps be found impossible or highly inconvenient to gratify. By the terms of the Treaty the four divisions of Arracan and the Districts of Tavoy Mergui and Yé have been ceded to the Honble. Company but until the views and wishes of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council with respect to the Ultimate disposal of the last mentioned Districts shall have been communicated to the Commissioners it behoves them and all their Subordinate Officers carefully to refrain from any act that may by any means [be] construed into a pledge binding upon the honor of Government. The Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales' Island being it is understood shortly expected to arrive from the Tenasserim Coast, it is, the Commissioners desire me to inform you, highly desirable that you should place yourself in immediate communication with the Honble. Mr. Fullerton, as he it is presumed will be able to furnish you with information with regard to the policy of the Supreme Government at an earlier period than the same could reach you by the circuitous route of this place.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. D. MANGLES

Secretary.

Office of Commission

Camp Palanagoh

4th January 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultation, Vol. 336. No. 9.

FORT WILLIAM 13th January 1826.

Resident at Singapore

To G. Swinton Esqre.

Pol. Dept. Secry. to the Govt.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council that I have received information from Siam by the route of Singapore down to the 18th of November. I have the honor to annex extracts of letters from the Agent of a Commercial House at Singapore giving the latest intelligence. It does not appear that Captain Burney the Agent of the Governor General had arrived at Bangkok down to the date above mentioned.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. Crawfurd—Rest.

Fort William

10th January 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 336. No. 9.

FORT WILLIAM 13th January 1826.

EXTRACTS of Letters from Bangkok.

October 4th.

"A messenger from Menam Noi" (the place where the Menam begins to be navigable) "arrived here last week to inform the King that three English Officers and thirty Sepoys had arrived at that place on their way to Bangkok. They told the Governor that they had letters for the King, and that they would deliver them into no persons hands but his now. When the King heard this he told the Messenger to go back and ask what they wanted to say, and what were the contents of the letters. The Messenger has not yet come back, as it will at this season take 10 days to go and 3 days to return. They talk here of going to war with Cochin China to settle some dispute about Cambodia, but how far this may be true I do not know. Captain Burney from Penang is expected here soon with letters from the Governor General to the King and to transact other business. This report is brought by a Siamese from Penang."

November 14th.

"I wrote the house on the 8th and 9th Instant per this opportunity, and as the Nakoda is still here, it affords me the pleasure of addressing you on a subject which you will naturally expect I should say something about, that is, our future prospects in this country, which are every day improving, and I think that it would be a pity to withdraw the establishment just now, especially after being at so much trouble and expence as you have been in planting it. It has now taken root and there is little danger of its dying away. On its first arrival it had innumerable difficulties to surmount which are now nearly if not all conquered. The native Merchants begin to know us and are not afraid as formerly to come and buy if we had only suitable goods to sell to them. The Prah-Klang himself seems

very willing to oblige us and when we have got him on our side there is no danger of opposition from any other quarter, even if any other person was inclined to oppose us which I believe is not the case. He has given orders to commence building the promised house for the residence of foreign Merchants which I have no doubt will go on rapidly, and will answer our purpose much better than the one we at present occupy, being directly opposite to the Prah-Klangs—because the people will then be at full liberty, or at least think themselves so to come in and go out when they please without fear of being seen, whereas a great many that are willing to come and purchase, are afraid of doing so for fear of offending or being seen by the Prah-Klang, a circumstance to which they have still some aversion, notwithstanding they are aware of the Govt. having granted permission."

(True Extracts)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD—Resr.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 668, pp.
487-8.

To

R. D. MANGLES Esqre.

Secretary to the Commissioners in Pegu
and Ava.

Sir.

I have this moment received a communication from Captain Burney, Envoy at the Court of Siam, containing Extracts from his dispatch to the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, together with a letter to Major General Sir Archibald Campbell's address, and which I have forwarded under cover to Brigadier Smelt at Rangoon to be transmitted to you with as little delay as possible.

I have also received a long letter from the Rown-a-Rown which shall be forwarded in the course of to-morrow, I have not yet had time to get it properly translated, and being unwilling to detain Captain Burney's dispatch for a moment, I prefer sending it by a future opportunity.

I hope any cooperation on the part of the Siamese with our troops will be now unnecessary, but if circumstances should occur to occasion a continuance of hostilities with the Burmese, Sir Archibald Campbell need not, I think, calculate upon any assistance from them during the present dry season. I think it is pretty evident that the Rown-a-Rown is not authorized by his Government to advance towards Martaban until a further reference is made to it, and some promise made, or a hope held out of being put in possession of this place. I shall certainly avoid making any promises whatever until I hear further from you.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. WILLIAMSON

Captain D. P. A.

Martaban.
28th Jany. 1826.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, Vol. 668, pp. 489-490.

To

R. D. MANGLES Esqr.

Secretary to the Commissioners

in Pegu and Ava.

Sir.

Herewith you will receive the letter from the Rown-a-Rown alluded to in my letter of yesterday's date, together with a translation* of the same into English.

* Ante pp. 401, quoted in Resolution of Commrs. 15 March 1826.

I do not see any prospect whatever of the Division under the Rown-a-Rown making any movement on Pegu this season, even if a renewal of hostilities should take place. He is himself represented to be extremely anxious to advance by the Zemindars who have been sent from this occasionally to his Camp: but the Government will not permit him until they receive some satisfactory reply to their demand regarding Martaban, the occupation of which place is deemed essentially necessary by them, for the purpose of establishing a Depôt into which they could throw supplies of Stores and provisions of all kinds for the use of their army.

We have a report here that the Honorable Mr. Fullerton has arrived at Mergui, but no letters have been received to corroborate it.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. WILLIAMSON

Captain D. P. Agent.

Martaban

29th Janry. 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 339. No. 72.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

Copy.

To Captain Henry Burney

Envoy at the Court of Siam.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales' Island to inform you that having arrived at Mergui on the 13th Ultimo and made the necessary enquiries respecting the hostages 122 Siamese detained until the return of the Inhabitants carried away from Tenasserim by the Chief of Chimpohun he was concerned to find that they still remained in confinement with the exception of 10 sent as will appear in the enclosed Papers. To the letters sent by Mr. Maingy to the Prah Klang and to the Chow Pya of Ligor no answer has ever been returned and the Honble. the Governor entertains serious doubts whether the letters addressed to you by Mr. Maingy have reached their destination. Adverting to the circumstance that the persons retained at Mergui had acted under orders of their chief, considerations of humanity would have induced the Honble. the Governor to have at once released the Prisoners and trusted to the return of the Inhabitants of Tenasserim to the just and well grounded representation to be made by you to the Court of Siam had it not appeared that their release was expressly made the condition of the release of the hostages from Mergui; no reply having been received and there appearing to be little prospect of any other communication being more successful, the Honble. the Governor has not deemed it advisable to repeat Mr. Maingy's application, but I am directed by the Honble. the Governor to express his hopes that your application for the recovery of the Men carried from under the protection of the British Flag will at no distant period be successful. The Honble. the Governor trusts you

will along with this receive from Prince of Wales' Island copy of the Treaty af Peace concluded with the Burmese Government by which it will be perceived that the Province of Yé, Tavoy and Mergui are with Arracan and dependencies ceded to the British Government. From the letter received from the Commissioners in Ava, it would appear that the Chief commanding the Siamese Forces has made a demand for the transfer of the three first Provinces to that Power. I am directed to enclose copy of the Commissioners Letter with the reply. Should the measure of the transfer ultimately take place, which however must depend on the future decision of the Right Honble. the Governor General you will no doubt receive the necessary Instructions from that high authority in respect to the terms and conditions eventually to be attached to their cession.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. E. Fullerton

Depy. Secy. to Govt. with the

Honble. the Governor.

Tavoy
4th Feby. 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 339. No. 66.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

Retention of Tavoy and Mergui.

* * * * * *

But whatever advantages might be ultimately derived from the retention of these Provinces it is not [to] be denied that the measure will place us in direct contact with both the Burmese and Siamese Governments with an accessible frontier on the North and South and in their transfer to the Siamese it is presumable that advantages may be obtained in respect to the tranquillity of our Settlements in the Straits in return for them ; the contiguity of the Siamese to Prince of Wales Island since the expulsion of the King of Queda has been found very inconvenient, and as will be known from recent communications that power has evinced every disposition to extend their conquests over the Malay States and place themselves in contact with us at Malacca and Singapore, their removal from Queda by the restoration of the King is attainable only by negociation, but in respect to the views entertained by them over Perak and other States of the Malay Peninsula I have long made up my mind, after the most deliberate enquiry and consideration, that the Siamese Government have not and never had any legitimate right or power over these States and consequently that their abandonment of an unjust pretention cannot require in return any concession on our part ; it must be admitted however that the cession of the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy on condition of the Siamese withdrawing entirely from Queda and Perak and abandoning all views of conquest on the Peninsula would place our Settlements in the Straits out of contact with that State at any one point and entirely remove the danger of that collision which contiguity of dominion may be supposed to produce, while such concession ought to impress that nation with ideas of our moderation which should dispel every doubt and

jealousy which seems to have all along operated in their intercourse with us. There is one source of collision so prominent and increasing that it would seem almost necessary to make it the subject of express provision and understanding with neighbouring States on this side of India ; I allude to the pertinacity with which they invariably insist on the return of Refugees and the little ceremony they observe in violating our territory on pretence of their recovery, the contiguity of a British Settlement holds forth an asylum and place of refuge for the oppressed of the surrounding nations, while a sense of humanity and the reputation of our Government forbids the Surrender of Fugitives except on proof of moral guilt ; disappointed despotism which looks on disobedience and flight as the greatest of crimes alike insists on their return ; disputes arise and the risk of hostility is incurred. Moral and Political considerations are here at variance. There can be little doubt that these countries will be peopled by refugees from the Siamese and Burmese possessions, the cause of discontent will be frequent and the military Force of the Provinces must be respectable ; the proximity of the Strong Post of Martaban if continued under the Burmese authority would furnish additional grounds for that measure. How far the avoidance of that collision is of importance enough to counterbalance the prospective advantages to be derived from the retention of Mergui and Tavoy is a point which must rest for the consideration of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council on which I can hardly consider myself authorized to give an opinion.

Considering the still existing dread and horror entertained by the Inhabitants of these Provinces against the Siamese, it would be necessary in the event of their transfer to that state to ensure to the Inhabitants by treaty the same Security which the Siamese Subjects in their old possessions enjoy and to such of them as are disposed the means of removing to the Burmese or some of the nearest British Settlements ; adverting

to the known policy and practice of the Siamese Government it is to be feared that their first act on gaining possession of these Provinces would be the removal of the Burmese Inhabitants to a distant Province and the complete breaking up of all the subsisting Families and connexions amongst them, a measure which their general aversion to Siamese Government and proximity to the Grand Enemy of that nation might even be asserted in some degree necessary for its own security.

As I am ignorant how far it may be intended in the event of the cession of these Provinces to the Siamese to guarantee to them the continued possession against the attacks of the Burmese, it may not be necessary to enter into any discussion as to the means of their maintaining themselves; with Martaban in possession of the latter and with so weak a frontier and open access by Sea and the disposition of the Inhabitants against them it seems to me scarcely possible that the Siamese could long retain possession.

In case of the cession of these Provinces to the Siamese the reservation of our Sovereignty over the principal Islands now in our possession (King's Island and Domel) becomes a subject for consideration, those with the Island of St. Mathews (which being South of the continential boundary line may be presumed to be Siamese) are considered to afford the most convenient positions for Marine Establishments; the latter is considered infinitely the best and might be obtained in exchange for the continental cessions.

Those Islands are covered with Forests, their productive powers unknown and King's Island and Domel only Inhabited partially. They are at present of no value, but on the other hand their retention would cost nothing as there can be no necessity of forming an establishment unless future events require it.

The retention would effectually exclude European Powers from a footing in the Archipelago; and would

afford the means in case of need of establishing a Port for the refitting and general protection of our Shipping on this side of the Bay in the event of our withdrawing from the continent, while insular possessions may be supposed to be less likely to give rise to disputes and collision.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Tavoy
14th Feby. 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 339.

Sect. Dept.

No. 67.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

Governor of Prince of Wales' Island.

To the Right Honble.

WILLIAM PITT LORD AMHERST

Governor General in Council

FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord.

I have the honor to report my arrival at Mergui on the 13th Ultimo. I am concerned to say the Siamese Prisoners taken at Yaishew doni and detained as hostages until the restoration of the Inhabitants of Tenasserim carried off by the Chief of Chimpohun remain still in confinement. No answer has been returned to the letters addressed by Mr. Maingy to the Prah Klang and to the chief of Ligor, nor has any communication whatever been received from Captain Burney. I confess I am inclined to doubt whether the letters addressed to him have ever reached their destination as these people no doubt acted under orders from their chief. Motives of humanity would have induced me to order their release and return to their own country and to have trusted to the restoration of the Tenasserim Inhabitants to the just and well grounded remonstrances of Captn. Burney, had it not appeared that that restoration was in these letters made the distinct proviso under which the Siamese Prisoners were to be released. From the little notice taken of communications already made I did not think it right to renew the subject but have addressed Captain Burney on the occasion of a Sea Conveyance.

* * * * * *

I have &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 109, pp. 873-880.

Mr. Secy. Stirling Fort William, 24 Feb. 1826.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 20 April 1826.

To

W. E. FULLERTON Esquire
Deputy Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you herewith, a letter from the Right Honorable the Governor General, to the address of the Rajah of Ligore, in reply to that from His Highness which accompanied the presents forwarded by the Government of Prince of Wales Island in September last, also a Box containing presents as per List accompanying—and to request, that the Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to cause them to be delivered according to their address, in such manner as he may judge expedient.

2. Copies of the Translation of the Rajah of Ligore's letter (prepared with the aid of a Malay Moonshee) and of His Lordship's answer, are transmitted herewith, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

3. As there is no person at this Presidency who could undertake translation of the Governor General's letter into the Malay; and still less the Siamese language, I am instructed farther to request, that a Malay version may be prepared at Prince of Wales Island, to accompany the original, and to admit of its insertion, the Khuritah, you will observe, has been left open.

I have &ca.

(Signed) A. STIRLING
Persn. Secry. to Govt.

Fort William
24 February 1826.

LIST OF PRESENTS.

A set of handsome Pink Topaz Jewellery consisting of a Necklace, Broach, a Pair of Rings and a Finger Ring in a Red Morocco Case.

A Pair of Double barrelled Pistols in a Mahogany Case with Apparatus Lock and Key.

Two Musical Boxes.

A Pair of handsome Shawls one Red and one sky blue.

Two handsome Diamond cut bottles with Gold tops.

Two Pieces of Rich Kimkhaub.

Enclosure 1. From

HIS HIGHNESS

The RAJAH of LIGORE

Received October 31st 1825.

(Through the Medium of a Persian Translation.)

After Compliments.

With great satisfaction I address this letter to a chief of such high renown, as the Governor General of India, and I trust it will reach your Lordship in safety.

It is my sincere and earnest desire to cultivate the relations of amity and concord with the Supreme Government and for years it has been the anxious wish of my heart to establish a friendly intercourse, in order that the people of this Country may proceed to Bengal and carry on their traffic with perfect ease and security.

It was my intention to have deputed an Agent to wait on your Lordship, but delay occurred, in consequence of my not being able to find a person acquainted with the language of Bengal. I was not aware beforehand of Captain Burney's visit to Calcutta, and did not therefore write, but now I take an opportunity of sending this letter through him and I trust to his friendship for conveying it in safety. Should it be your pleasure, the people of this Country will be delighted to visit the Ports of Bengal, and to carry on a trade with that country. Between the States of Siam and Ava, War and enmity have ever existed. Should the Burman Country become permanently a part of the British Territories the people of Siam will be highly gratified thereat.

The Country of Kedah has been from ancient times, a dependency of Siam. The Rulers of Siam have always conferred the Chiefship of Kedah on whomsoever they thought proper to select. Formerly the

Laws and usages of the Empire were in full force in that quarter and the Rajahs were always faithful and obedient, so that no disputes or disturbances occurred. Some years since Tanko Bisnoo, the brother of Tanko Bummoo, came to Siam, and represented that the Rajah of Kedah was in correspondence with the King of Ava, and was preparing to levy war against his Liege Lord. The Ruler of Siam then issued a summons to the Rajah of Kedah, to repair to his presence, that he might receive good counsel. The Raja would not obey the order, though often repeated, and continued to resist it for five or six years: At length, after committing this and many other offences, he retired to Pulo Penang, where he took up his abode, and wrote again to the King of Ava, urging him to attack the Siamese. The Burman King accordingly communicated frequently with the Rajah of Kedah as is well known to several Inhabitants of Pulo Penang. In the mean time, the English, by the blessing of the Almighty, took possession of the Burman Dominions, on which the Rajah of Kedah became alarmed, and desisted from his practices with the Government of Ava. The Rajah of Kedah, continuing to reside at Pulo Penang with all his brethren and relations next put abroad a false report that it was the intention of the English Authorities of Prince of Wales Island to make war against Siam. During a long course of years I have never, in any one instance, acted an unfriendly part towards the English. How should I do it now? The thing is impossible. If any person calumniates me in your Lordship's presence and endeavours to sow dissention between the two states, by falsely ascribing hostile designs to the Siamese, I request from your Lordship's justice and magnanimity, that he may not be believed. Captain H. Burney will explain all matters to your Lordship in detail, when he waits upon you. I assure you that I will always act in such a manner as to promote the friendship between the two States; and I confidently trust that the connection between us will now become more intimate than ever, and that com-

merce will be extended. It is my sincere desire that no interruption to our harmony and good understanding should occur.

I send herewith two pieces of Cloth worked in Gold, also a Vase with a Cover, a Kettle to warm water in, and a Teapot, made in Siam, as a present for your Lordship. Although these articles are of the most trifling value, and are not at all worthy of your Lordship, yet, as they are offered in the spirit of sincere friendship, I hope that they will be graciously accepted for the donor's sake. I have not just now had time to procure any of the more rare and valuable articles manufactured in Siam, but, please God I live, I will hereafter send some of greater beauty and richness.

I trust that your Lordship will return a speedy answer to this letter, in order that the people of this Country may be encouraged to trade to Bengal.

This being the first letter which I have ever addressed to the Governor General of India, I beg, that if any errors or inaccuracies in point of form occur, that will be viewed indulgently.

(True Translation)

(Signed) A. STIRLING

Persn. Secy. to Govt.

True Copy

(Signed) A. STIRLING

Persn. Secy. to Govt.

Enclosure 2. To

HIS HIGHNESS the RAJAH of LIGORE

Date 24 February 1826.

I had great satisfaction in receiving your friendly and agreeable letter, transmitted thro' the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

The sentiments of friendship and good will which it expresses towards myself personally and the disposition manifested by your Highness to cultivate and improve the relations of concord and harmony so happily established between the Honble: East India Company and the state of Siam, are peculiarly gratifying to me, and are met by corresponding feelings and inclinations on my part and that of the Supreme Government, which we shall lose no opportunity of testifying.

Your desire to establish a secure and uninterrupted Commercial intercourse between the two Countries, and to encourage the resort of your subjects to the Ports of Bengal, is a proof of your wisdom and enlightened policy, and accords precisely with the views and wishes of this Government. Let your Merchants and Traders repair to this Country with the fullest confidence and rest assured that they will experience a friendly reception, and meet with every just and reasonable facility in carrying on their traffic with the people of British India. Any information which you may wish to obtain regarding Commercial Laws and regulations of this part of the World, and the state of its Markets, will, I am sure, be willingly furnished to you by the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

Your Highness has doubtless received full accounts of the events of the Burmah War, and the brilliant success which has attended the operations of our Army in Pegu and Ava, notwithstanding the difficulties opposed to their progress, by the nature of the Country and Climate. Adverting to the inveterate spirit of

hostility which the Burmese have always manifested towards Siam, it is natural that you should regard with satisfaction the overthrow of that arrogant and faithless power, by a Government which sincerely desires to cultivate the relations of peace and good neighbourhood, and to conduct a mutually beneficial commerce, with all surrounding States. The explicit assurance on this point contained in your Highness's letter is exceedingly gratifying and satisfactory to me.

What you have written regarding the affairs of Kedah, has been perused by me with deliberate attention. The necessity for any specific remarks thereupon, on the present occasion, has been obviated by the 6th and 7th Articles of the Preliminary Treaty concluded between your Highness and Captain Burney on the 31 July last, which I sincerely hope will remove every difficulty, and produce such a Settlement of Kedah affairs, as may prevent future discussion and misunderstandings and secure the rights and interests of all parties, on a permanent basis.

With respect to the rumours and accusatory statements referred to by your Highness in the concluding part of your letter, I beg to assure you that the British Government never lends an ear to calumnies, but compares the acts of every one, with his professions, and judges accordingly. If doubts at any time existed, your Highness's conduct in the late interviews with Captain Burney, no less than the Language of your present communication, must entirely remove them, and restore the fullest confidence in your friendship and good intentions.

The presents sent by your Highness have been received by me in the spirit which prompted their offer, and are highly valued, as tokens of your friendship. I beg to return a few articles as specimens of the produce and manufactures of this country.

The correspondence thus auspiciously commenced between us, will, I trust, be continued, and serve to increase and cement our mutual friendship and regard.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. STIRLING.

Persn. Secry. to Govt.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, vol. 668, pp. 481-487.

RESOLUTION of the Commissioners in Pegue and Ava, Camp, Prome, 15 March 1826.

The Secretary laid before the Commissioners a letter from Captain Williamson, Deputy Political Agent at the Head Quarters of the Auxiliary Siamese Army, dated from Martaban, 29 January 1826.* with its enclosure, being an original letter in the Burmese language received by that Officer from the Rown-a-Rown, with a translation of the same, running as follows.

*See infra.

General &c. &c. &c. Rown-a-Rown, serving under the great King of Keearouttra Dwarawaddee, Preserver of the ten Commandments, full of Justice, Lord of the white Elephant &c. &c. &c. is informed (by the letter brought by the Zemindar of Taka Twon) that the officers who were dispatched by him have been well received, and supplied with every necessary. In a former letter I am informed that should our troops advance to Martaban, they also will be provided with Grain and other provisions, and that you have forwarded the letter sent by us to the General Commanding the British Troops, and when an answer is received we will consult together. We also understand from the purport of the late letter, that the British General is desirous that we should advance with as little delay as possible. This letter was taken by the Zemindar of Taka twon to the Egga Maha Thanadee padee (Chief Minister) at Bangkok, and in reply he states that the English and Siamese are upon the most friendly terms, that they are both enemies to the Burmese, and are conjoined in war against them. Our enmity to the Burmese is of long duration, and it is impossible to number the various and repeated encounters that we have had with them: but with the English we are inclined to be on the closest terms of friendship, and are extremely willing to be called to their assistance, as we are perfectly acquainted with the manner of Burmese warfare. There still remain a number of Towns untaken by the English, and without a large army it will be difficult to conquer

more; but with such assistance as will be sent by us every thing will be rendered easy. But, provided this army be sent by us we have no place of depôt, and although it be said that provisions will be provided for our troops, we cannot trust solely to such promises, as it is difficult to procure provisions, the town and country not being under our control; and it is a matter of uncertainty whether we may be provided or not, and if not, every thing will go wrong. If Martaban and Tavoy were placed under our directions, and Granaries &c. &c. established, the Burmese contending against our combined forces could not continue to exist, and should the war continue until the rainy season, we should be sufficiently supplied with grain in the Districts of Martaban and Tavoy, whilst the English would also have sufficient upon the Rangoon side; and before the commencement of the warm season there would be a famine amongst the Burmese at which time every thing would be easily gained. Our army is ready at a moment's notice, and if the English General be of the same opinion with ourselves, we hope that a decisive answer will be sent immediately.

The Rown-a-Rown is at present, in consequence of a late order, encamped at Darieh in the District of Mac-na-nwar, Eight day of the encrease of the moon Pyatho A Sekai-Thee Mahapyat with the Zemindar of Taka-town is dispatched with this letter for the information of the British officer commanding at Martaban, who will transmit the letter to the General Commanding the British Troops in Ava."

The Commissioners taking this letter into consideration, adverting to the tenour of the several communications lately received from Captain Williamson, more especially to his letters dated severally the 28 and 29 th of January* and the 14th February 1826,* in which last-mentioned dispatch he states, as his decided opinion "that the division under the Rown-a-Rown will not move towards Martaban, until they are assured that the place will be given up to them," and

*See infra.

*Not copied.

referring to the general tone of Captain Burney's letters from Bangkok itself, where he possessed full means and opportunity of informing himself thoroughly, with respect to the disposition and policy of that Court, which appears to be most timidly averse to committing itself with the Burmese until the late contest should have been decided by the complete triumph of the British arms, resolved that a letter in the Burmese language should be addressed to the Rown-a-Rown to the following effect.

"The British Commissioners write to the Rown-a-Rown &c. &c. &c.

The British Commissioners have received the Rown-a-Rown's letter forwarded to them by Captain Williamson, and have perused with satisfaction that Chieftain's assurances of his desire to cooperate with the British forces serving in Ava. The British Commissioners have to inform the Rown-a-Rown that the British Army advanced from Prome with an intention of proceeding to the capital of Ava, and prosecuted its march to Gandaboo, within 25** dynes of the Royal residence, having with the greatest facility taken every Fort, and defeated and dispersed every army that opposed its progress. On their reaching Gandaboo, the Commissioners were met by the Ministers deputed by the King of Ava, who agreed to repay, as demanded, some portion of the expences incurred by the British Government during the war, delivering in part payment of the same, the sum of twenty five lacs of Rupees, (or eighteen and three quarters lacs of tickals) in Gold and Silver Bullion, and to cede in perpetuity to the British Government the Provinces of Arracan, Sandoway, Ramree, Cheduba, Assam, Cochar, Jinteea, Tavoy, Mergui and Yé, as far to the Westward as the Salvien River. The British Commissioners having thus through the unaided exertions of the English Army, and without any assistance whatever from the Rown-a-Rown, accomplished every object that they had in

**60 or 70 miles.

view, no longer require the advance of the Siamese Army; and recommend to the Rown-a-Rown that it be immediately withdrawn. As one article in the Treaty of Peace specially relates to the Siamese Government a Copy thereof is enclosed for your information, and a Copy of the whole Treaty* will be transmitted to Captain Burney, the British Resident at Bangkok, for the information of His Siamese Majesty.

For this Treaty, see Aitcheson, 4th ed. vol. ii. p. 33.

"In reply to that part of the Rown-a-Rown's letter which relates to the Provinces of Martaban and Tavoy, the British Commissioners have merely to inform that Chieftain that according to the terms of the Treaty lately concluded, the provinces of Mergui, Tavoy and Ye, viz. all the country to the Eastward of the Salvein River, will in future appertain to the British Government in India, and that Martaban, to the Westward of that River, will be restored to the King of Ava."

It was further resolved that a letter of Instruction should be written to Captain Williamson with the Copy of the above Draft, and that that officer should be directed to forward copies of the said letter and draft to Mr. Commissioner Maingy and Captain Burney respectively, with the greatest practicable dispatch.

(Signed) Ross D. Mangles Secretary.

True Copy

(Signed) R. D. Mangles Secy.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 339. Sect. Dept. No. 6.

FORT WILLIAM 2d June 1826.

Mr. Maingy.

To Geo. Swinton Esqr.

Secretary to Government Poll. Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council a continuation of Captain Burney's Journal, which was delivered to me a few days since by Mr. Leal, one of his Interpreters.

I feel great satisfaction in reporting that Captain Burney has succeeded in obtaining the release of 547 Burmese Men, Women, and Children, being the portion sent to Bangkok of the Inhabitants forcibly carried away from these Provinces by the Pya of Chimpohun —of these 503 have reached Mergui, 12 have died on the road, and 33 are missing. Captn. Burney having placed Mr. Leal under my orders, and having forwarded to me a Copy of an order in the Siamese language which has been sent to the present Governor of Chimpohun by the Court of Siam, directing the release of the captives there, I have availed myself of Mr. Leal's Services, and directed him to proceed to Chimpohun with the Siamese lately in confinement at Mergui, and have furnished him with presents and letters to the Pya of Chimpohun authorizing him to receive as many of the Burmese Captives as he can obtain.

I have &ca.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY Commissr.

for the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy.

TAVOY the
24th March 1826.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, Vol. 668, pp. 381-403.

(Copy)

Secret Department,

25th April 1826.

Minute by Mr. Harington.

* * * * * *

Para. 11.

10. With regard to the conquered Provinces of Yeh, Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, . . . it would certainly not be inconsistent to allow the King of Ava to redeem the Territory thus ceded by him, if he should hereafter be desirous of doing so, by a gradual payment of the second Crore of Rupees, not included in the fifth article of the Treaty, and if this mode of disposing of the Provinces obtained under the fourth article should ultimately appear preferable to the retention of them in our own hands, or a transfer of them to the Siamese. But it seems to me in several respects, premature to enter upon any immediate consideration of this question, which may perhaps, with propriety, be left for decision by the authorities in England.

Copied from Vol. 660.

12. In answer to a letter from this Government, dated the 12th November 1824,* the Secret Committee observed, (in Para: 45 of their letter dated 3d. August 1825, already referred to as the last received from them) "We should not object to the transfer of Mergui, or Tavoy, to the Siamese, if you could thereby secure any of the desired objects of the Malayan Peninsula, to which you refer in your letter of the 7th Decr.* to the Government of Prince of Wales' Island."

*A letter of this date to the Court of Directors copied from Vol. 660.

13. With reference to the objects here adverted to and with a view to check the Burman spirit of encroachment and conquest on the Coast of Tenasserim,

if we do not ourselves keep possession of the Provinces ceded to us by the fourth article of the Treaty, it might perhaps be expedient to relinquish to the Siamese such parts of them as more immediately border upon Siam, in exchange for what we require on the Malayan Peninsula, and such Commercial advantages as it might be found practicable to settle with the Court of Siam, for the future regulation of our trade and intercourse with the different sea ports of that Kingdom.

14. But unless the permanent possession of these Territories, which have so often been a subject of contest between the rival states of Ava and Siam, were guaranteed to the latter by the British Government it seems doubtful whether so weak a power would be able to retain them in the event of any future attempt to recover them on the part of the Burmese; and even if he could ensure their quiet occupancy by a Treaty of Alliance with the King of Siam, unless he could assure us, in return, of his establishing a system of Government more favorable to the liberty and property of the inhabitants, than what is described to have been the systematic and cruel oppression hitherto exercised by his officers towards the natives of Tavoy and Mergui (who consequently look upon subjugation to the Siamese with terror and abhorrence) it would be impossible on moral grounds to suggest a transfer to his authority of those who have sought or may hereafter seek an asylum from persecution within the limits of our new acquisitions.

15. The obligation which we have virtually contracted towards the inhabitants of those conquered Provinces, forms indeed an obstacle to the restitution of them to the Government of Ava, though not perhaps (with due stipulations in their behalf) so strong as that which opposes their annexation to Siam. On this account I cannot but wish that it were consistent with

our policy to keep these possessions, or such of them as on farther information may appear tenable and productive, under the fostering care of a British Government.

* * * * * *

(Signed) J. H. HARINGTON

April 25th 1826.

A true Copy

(Signed) G. SWINTON

Secy. to the Govt.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 668,
pp. 431-451.

(Copy)

26th April 1826.

Note by the Secretary.

* * * * * *

With respect to the cessions on the side of Martaban and the Tenasserim coast, the arguments having reference to the defence of our frontier do not apply; but it appears to me that there are many other considerations which strongly recommend their temporary, if not their permanent, retention.

It is not, I believe, disputed that most if not all the Provinces of Martaban, Ye, Tavoy and Mergui, are rich and fertile, and would soon repay the expenses of management, besides throwing open to British industry and enterprise a vast field from which we have hitherto been quite shut out. The possession of those Provinces would give us the command of an extensive traffic with Siam and the adjoining countries, with the advantage of having free ports of our own at Tavoy and Mergui, instead of being subjected to the vexatious imposts and exactions of the Siamese practised at Bangkok.

* * * * * *

But, independently of the above considerations, I would beg leave to submit that we are in some measure pledged to protect the inhabitants of the Martaban and Tenasserim Provinces, and we could not suddenly withdraw our protection without exposing them to the cruel inroads of the Siamese on the one hand, and the no less cruel Government of their former Masters on the other. All the reports received from Captain Burney shew that the Siamese and Burmese have been in the constant practice of seizing every opportunity to carry off the inhabitants of each others territories into slavery, and it cannot be doubted that in the present weak and distracted state of the Burmese Government, the Siamese would commit the most cruel excesses in

those Territories which we might restore to Ava. A better fate would scarcely await the inhabitants of the Provinces in question, if they were given up by us to the Siamese in return for their consenting to the restoration of the exiled Rajah of Quedah; for there is too much reason to apprehend that the moment the Siamese were placed by us in possession of any of the Burmese Dominions, they would plunder and destroy the country and make captives of the inhabitants, least the Burmese should again recover strength to drive them out as before.

* * * * * *

As regards the fear of collision with the Burmese or the Siamese I would beg leave merely to remark that it is the weakest power rather than the strongest that should fear this contingency, and that it is more our policy to make those arrogant and semi barbarous Governments dread giving us offence, than to avoid cause of quarrel by retiring from their vicinity. The Burmese I would fain flatter myself have got such a lesson as will effectually restrain them from offering us any serious affront in future, and the example will go a great way with the Siamese who have unequivocally betrayed to Cap. Burney the awe with which our power has inspired them, and who will be submissive in proportion to the facilities with which we can send an army to chastise them. In this point of view I should imagine that our possession of Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, so far from tending to embroil us in a quarrel with that nation would materially contribute to overawe and keep them quiet, and thus mainly promote the tranquillity of that portion of the Malayan Peninsula where we are necessarily brought into contact with them and their dependent states by our occupation of Malacca.

Hopeless as the chance of success in any war with the British Government must now appear to the Burmese and Siamese, there can be little reason to appre-

hend their seriously meditating such a design, and consequently the force required for the protection of our newly acquired territories cannot be very great. But it appears to me to be of the first importance to keep up the impression we have established of the superiority of our power, and nothing can so effectually secure this as our continuing to hold what we have acquired. Our retaining undisturbed possession of Burmese Provinces which the Siamese have never been able to conquer from the nation will speak a much more intelligible language to the Court of Siam than any remonstrance which we might have occasion to address to it for unfriendly conduct, and in like manner it will serve to remind the Burmese of their folly, and be a warning to them not to risk the loss of other and more valuable possessions.

* * * * * *

(Signed) G. SWINTON

A true Copy

(Sd.) G. SWINTON

Secry. to Govt.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 668,
pp. 405-427.

(Copy)

Minute by Mr. Bayley.

* * * * * *

Two modes of beneficially disposing of these conquests [the provinces on the coast of Tenasserim] appear to have been contemplated, the first was the transfer of them to Siam in exchange for certain territorial and other advantages which were considered as of great importance to the interests of Prince of Wales Island and our settlements to the Eastward.

The second was the restoration of them to Ava for a large pecuniary consideration.

If by the first mentioned arrangement we could have obtained the Island of Junk Ceylon and the other objects above alluded to without guaranteeing to Siam the secure retention of those Provinces, and without involving ourselves in any defensive alliance with her, I should have thought the measure highly desirable; but there appears to me to exist insuperable objections at present to the transfer of those Provinces to Siam, even supposing the Government of Siam to be disposed to enter readily into our views. The concurring accounts which we have received from all the local authorities of the cruelties so long exercised by the Siamese towards the inhabitants of those Provinces, and of the hatred and dread which the latter so justly entertain of the Siamese, would in my opinion preclude us from being a party to any arrangement which would now subject the inhabitants of Tavoy, Mergui and Martaban to the dominion of Siam. We could not I think by any stipulation secure them from those acts of cruelty and severe oppression which they anticipate if they are placed under the dreaded government of Siam, and unless we are prepared practically to enforce the due maintenance of such stipulations, the transfer of the Provinces in question to Siam seems to

be irreconcileable with the paramount considerations of justice and humanity.

The period may come when by a change in the character of the Government of Siam or by the lapse of years, the objections which now exist to such an arrangement may be weakened or altogether removed, and the interest of the British Government may be consulted without sacrificing those of the people now subject to our authority and entitled to our protection.

* * * * * *

With regard to Siam the successful result of our war with Ava cannot fail to produce a strong impression of our power and resources, and if we show by our conduct that we have no intention of aggrandizing ourselves at their expense, and that we are only anxious to cultivate a friendly intercourse with them with a view to the commercial prosperity of both countries, I see no cause to fear any hostile attempts on their part to disturb us.

The danger of future collision both with Ava and Siam is chiefly, I think, to be looked for in the probable frequency with which the subjects of those states may take refuge in our provinces, and it will be very desirable to define by treaty, the circumstances by which our conduct on that point is to be regulated.

* * * * * *

(Signed) W. B. BAYLEY.

May 6th 1826.

A true Copy

(Signed) GEO. SWINTON

Secry. to Govt.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, vol. 660, p. 645.

Copy. Triplicate.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the

Honble. the Court of Directors.

Honble. Sirs,

* * * * * *

Para. 3. We have also the honor to transmit by this opportunity a copy of a dispatch from the Secretary at P. W. Island dated 25th March last inclosing a continuation of Captain Burney's report of his proceedings at the Court of Siam, extending from the 22d December 1825 to the 15 February 1826, the details of which are extremely interesting and throw much light on the character and policy of the Siamese, and will materially assist the judgment of your Honble. Committee in deciding on the ultimate disposal of our acquisitions on the Tenasserim Coast.

4. It will not fail to strike you on a perusal of Captain Burney's report, that if the districts above adverted to had been transferred to the Siamese when they first came into our possession, there is every reason to believe they would have been plundered and laid waste, and the unfortunate inhabitants been seized and carried off as slaves to Siam. It is satisfactory to observe, that in their correspondence with Captain Burney, the Siamese Ministers distinctly disavow all claim of right to the provinces which we have conquered from the Burmese. In their note No. 15 appendix to Captain Burney's report the Siamese Ministers remark that "the Countries of Tavoy and Martaban which the Eng-"lish have conquered have become their possessions "and the Siamese do not covet countries for nothing. "What were the boundaries of those Countries when "belonging to the Burmese, can be now the boundaries "of the English, and the Siamese do not desire to in-"fringe on the boundaries of the English. Do not let

" Captain Burney be uneasy. The Governor General " of Bengal had deputed him to improve friendship and " commerce. The Siamese are extremely pleased with " what Captain Burney has come to perform and desire " that trade and friendly intercourse between the Eng- " lish and Siamese may become much greater than " formerly."

5. In No. 18 of the Appendix the same Ministers state to Captain Burney as follows " His Majesty ha- " ving read the letter and understood its contents issued " the following orders. The country of Siam has from " the earliest times for more than 100 years been en- " gaged in war with Ava and we have never heard of " the whole race of our kings ever making a good re- " turn to the Burmese or of restoring any Territory " conquered. As to what Captain Burney thinks in " his active and zealous mind of proceeding to Marta- " ban and obtaining it for us. Captain Burney is very " kind and we return many thanks to him, but Marta- " ban is far from the country of Siam, exposed and not " connected with the Siamese Territories. To protect " and keep Martaban would be very difficult and the " inhabitants of Martaban would not be pleased because " the Siamese would be fighting with the Burmese."

6. In the 6th paragraph of the appendix to Captain Burney's Journal, paper A, No. 21, relating to the progress of his negotiations with the Siamese Court, that intelligent officer remarks that " the intercourse " between the Siamese capital and Tavoy is much more " easy and capable of advantageous commercial results " than that with Mergui. By embarking on the " Menam Noi, the passage between Tavoy and Bang- " kok may certainly be reduced to 8 or 9 days which is " very nearly the time formerly reported to Mr. Craw- " furd. Tavoy abounds in tin and other productions " and the country on its frontiers is rich in sapan and " teak wood while that on the frontiers of Mergui and " Tenasserim is stated to be poor, barren and thinly

"inhabited. No Commercial Treaty with Siam (Cap-
"tain Burney states in the 9th paragraph) "could prove
"so advantageous to British Commerce and shipping
"as a settlement at Tavoy whence we could ensure at
"all times a large share in the commerce of Siam with-
"out being dependent on the caprice of a suspicious
"and jealous Court."

7. With respect to the nature of the frontier be-
tween the late Burmese possessions of Martaban and
Tenasserim, and the territory of Siam, Captain Burney
in paper B. of his Appendix states "there is a moun-
"tainous waste of several days journey on either side
"of the frontier between the Siamese Dominions and
"the Provinces of Tavoy and Martaban and the exist-
"ence of this waste has ever proved the strongest de-
"fence of Siam against Ava, whose population is far
"superior to that of Siam in any military quality and
"whose armies if they had not been obliged to carry
"their own provisions over this tract would have cross-
"ed it much oftener than they have done. It may be
"considered good policy to keep up this tract of desol-
"ation between the Siamese and any possessions that
"the British Government may retain on the Coast of
"Tenasserim as the intervention of a mountainous
"waste may reduce the chance of dispute and collision.
"In any plan for ceding a portion of our conquests to
"Siam two points would require to be considered.
"First that she could retain the territory against even
"the present reduced power of Ava, and secondly that
"the inhabitants would readily receive their new
"masters or at least not experience an undue measure
"of oppression. The Provinces of Tavoy, Mergui, and
"Tenasserim are inhabited by a race of Burmese which,
"judging from the conduct of the Siamese towards the
"prisoners whom they brought from these Provinces
"during the present war, would be certain of being
"made slaves and of being treated with the utmost in-
"humanity if transferred to Siam."

8. Captain Burney proceeds to remark that "a large portion of the population of Siam consists of "Peguers and of the descendants of Pegu emigrants "and Martaban which once belonged to Siam appears "capable of being made a post of considerable strength, "while it is inhabited chiefly by Peguers who have "been in extensive communication with their brethren "in Siam during the whole of the present war.

9. One objection (Captain Burney continues to say) "against ceding Martaban to Siam is that by "bringing the Siamese closer to the Burmese, we may "sow the seeds of more dispute between them, but it "may be hoped that the British Posts of Tavoy and "Mergui would enable us to keep the peace between "these Nations. The Burmese in their struggle with "the English must have made a great advance in "military tactics, and in proportion as the terms of the "proposed treaty between us press upon them in the "North and West they will try to move towards the "South and East. Altho' the Court of Siam is too "arrogant to admit it, yet there may be strong grounds "for believing that unless the Siamese are pledged* "the support of the British Government or put in "possession of some advantageous post on the frontiers "of Ava, the Burmese will have greater inclination and "ability than ever to find their way to Bankok from "Martaban which is the place where they formerly "collected their force preparatory to attacking Siam."

Note. Captn. Burney was not at this time aware of the Treaty by which that portion of the Martaban to the East of Sauloon River had been ceded to us also.

* Sic.

Note. Captn. Burney is not aware that the Sauloon River is now the boundary. This effectually excludes the Burmese from attacking Siam by the usual route thro' Martaban.

10. Notwithstanding the declaration of the Siamese Ministers that the possession of Martaban is not an object with them, Captain Burney states in the paper last referred to (paragraph ten) that "the Court of "Siam appear to put the chief value upon Martaban "and the offer of that Province would give the British "Government the best, perhaps the only chance of ob-"taining from Siam the whole of the objects it desires."

11. We have adverted in the preceding paragraphs to some of the points stated in Captain Burney's

report as bearing on the question relative to the disposal of our conquests on the Tenasserim Coast; but the whole report is well worthy the deliberate consideration of your Honorable Committee previously to your coming to a final resolution on the subject here alluded to.

12. Before we conclude our notice of Captain Burney's report, we will make one short extract more containing his opinion of the effect which the money payment to us by the Burmese will produce on the minds of the Siamese. In paragraph 104 of his Journal he states as follows. "The Rajah of Ligore asked me "and took down in writing the names of the different "territories we are about to retain or return to Ava, "and seemed most inquisitive as to the sum of money "that the Burmese are to engage to pay us. This "payment of money, next to the possession of the "Burmese Capital, is the most unequivocal proof we "could give to the Siamese and every Indo-Chinese "Nation of the superiority of the British Arms over "those of Ava.

* * * * * *

We have &c.

AMHERST

COMBERMERE

Fort William — J. H. HARRINGTON

10 May 1826. — W. B. BAYLEY.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184, pp. 54-55.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES, LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Mission to Siam.

Para. 14. Although the* Political Mission of Captain Burney to Siam was made under the immediate authority of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, yet as the part objects* which related to the Malay States had reference to this Government the Agent has from time to time transmitted to us reports of his proceedings thereon, with copies of his Journal. These Documents are recorded on the Consultations noted in the margin to which we beg to refer your Honble. Court, should the same not have been already laid before you through the Supreme Government.

* (Sic)? part of the objects.

2 Feb. 1826
23 Mar. „
Secret and Pol. Dept. 19 June.
Straits Settlements vols. 108-109.
138 (copied).

15. It does not appear to us after all that has been done that the Siamese Court and nation are sufficiently advanced in civilization and intelligence respecting other states duly to appreciate the motives which have actuated the British Government in all the attempts made towards conciliation and friendly intercourse. A Minute recorded by our President in the Secret and Political Department will shew the view taken by us of the present state of affairs, and we hope your Honble. Court will approve of the declaration Captain Burney has been recommended to made in the

19 June.

event of the Siamese Government declining to accede to his arrangements and desist from its projects of warfare and conquest in the Peninsula.

* * * * * *

We have the honour to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

W. A. CLUBLEY

R. IBBETSON

FORT CORNWALLIS
The 21st June 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

No. 11.

FORT WILLIAM 1st December 1826.

Translation of a letter from the Ex Rajah of Kedah to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esqre. Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments)

Whereas the Siamese seized my country by treachery and they murdered a great many of my Chiefs, being taken by surprize I was much alarmed and collecting my family, I ran to Polo Penang because Captain Light formerly made an Arrangement with my father, at the time he requested Pulo Penang that assistance should be given against any enemies who might endeavour to disturb the peace of Kedah. Wherefore when the Siamese treacherously attacked my country, I brought my children to place them under the charge of Mr. Phillips, intending myself to return to Kedah, in order to collect the Ryots and drive the Siamese from the country. But Mr. Phillips would not allow me to return to Kedah, and ordered me to wait here, promising to consider and assist me. I assented to this, which appeared to me very proper, for the power of the King of Europe is very great and an engagement also existed. I therefore resolved to wait.

In the mean time the Siamese seized my sister and my son, with their families and followers, when endeavouring to effect their escape from Kedah to join me. A great number of the better class of my subjects also, male and female, were also seized by the Siamese and conveyed to Siam. After that I repeatedly requested the assent of Mr. Phillips to my removing from Pulo Penang, but he did not like to let me go and desired me to wait awhile, as he wished to obtain directions from Bengal, which has caused me to wait till the present time.

I have received intelligence that my son Yakoob is lately dead as mentioned in the letter which the Sia-

mese sent me and which I gave to Mr. Anderson to translate, and shew to my friend. It appears to me certain that my son did not die from any disease, but by poison by the Siamese. I beg to make this known to my friend and request he will take the circumstances herein mentioned into consideration. I beg that with my friend's assistance and the power of the King of Europe and Governor General of Bengal, I may be enabled to return to Kedah. When by such aid I may be enabled to return to Kedah, if I die immediately afterwards, it will not matter; if my friend have any friendship and compassion towards me, I request that I may be enabled to return in a month or two.

I have long waited to hear the intelligence of Captain Burney's Mission to Siam, but I have as yet received no certain intelligence. Captain Burney promised to me when he called upon me prior to his departure that he would return in four months; my only reliance is in my friend, that through him I may receive the aid of the King of Europe and Governor General of Bengal.

Dated 17th Dulkeda 1241 or 23d. June 1820.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

Penang

26th June 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations Vol. 341. Sect. Dept. No. 17.

FORT WILLIAM 20th October 1826.

TO G. SWINTON Esqr.

Secry. to Govt.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to transmit a Dispatch to your address received a few days since from the Envoy to the Court of Siam.*

* See Burney to Swinton of 19 June 1826. Copied from Home Series, Misc. vol. 669.

I have great satisfaction in reporting for the information of the Rt. Honble. the Govr. Genl. in Council that 631 of the Pegu and Burmese Prisoners noticed in Capt. Burney's Journal have arrived at Mergui. Provisions and quarters have been provided for them and I shall lose no time in making arrangements for forwarding the Pegu Captives to their former houses near Martaban.

I have &ca.

(Sd.) A. D. MAINGY

Commissr.

Tavoy The August 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342. No. 10.

FORT WILLIAM 17th November 1826.

To G. Swinton Esqre.
Secry. to Govt. &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have already had the honor of transmitting to you the concluding portion of the Journal of my Mission to the Court of Siam, and I now beg to bring under the consideration of the Supreme Government copy of a letter addressed by me to the Secretary to this Government* in reply to a communication which I had received of the sentiments of the Honble. the Governor in Council respecting the result of the Mission.

* See 3 Oct. 1826, Fac. Rec. Str. Setts vol. 138.

The orders which have recently arrived from Bangkok and which are here known to have been obeyed, for throwing open the trade in grain at Queda and for withdrawing the small parties of Siamese detained at Perak by the Perak Chiefs whom he had escorted thither from the Rajah of Ligore furnish fair proof of the disposition of the Siamese Court to respect the provisions of the treaty lately negotiated, but an unwillingness on the part of some of the officers of this Government to relinquish a favorite policy or to overcome their prejudices against the Rajah of Ligore renders the task of establishing a good understanding with the Siamese a most arduous and painful one to me.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney
Envoy to Court of Siam.

Prince of Wales Island
9th Octr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184, pp. (unpaged).

Secret and Political.

To THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

Para. 1. With reference to the 14th 15th and 16th Paragraphs of our letter to your Honorable Court under date the 21st June last, we have now the honor to report the return to this Presidency, on the 9th of September last of Captain Burney, Envoy from the Right Honorable the Governor General, to the Court of Siam; and we transmit by this opportunity our consultations in this department from the 29th June to the 5th October inclusive, in which will be found the Envoys reports, and a Copy of the treaty negotiated with the Court of Siam.

2. We consider it unnecessary to enlarge in this letter on the subject of the proceedings of the Envoy, and the result of the Mission; but request the particular reference to your Honorable Court to the Minutes of our President, the explanatory letter of Captain Burney, and our letter to the Supreme Government, recorded in the margin. We entirely coincide in the view of the subject taken by our President in his Minutes under date the 18th September and 5th October.

28 September
5 October.
Straits Settlements vol. 138.

3. As the Political Charge of the Provinces lately ceded to the British Government on the Coast of Tenasserim has recently been vested in Sir A. Campbell K. C. B. we have considered it proper from the contiguity of these possessions to the Siamese States, to transmit to His Excellency Copies of the Treaty and the papers referred to in the preceding Paragraph, in order that he may be fully informed of the proceedings in this quarter, and the sentiments of this Government in respect to Captain Burney's negotiations.

4. Although we have, after a deliberate consideration of all the circumstances, recommended the ratification of the treaty by the Supreme Government, as the least objectionable alternative, and the most likely measure for setting at rest present discussion, we still incline to the opinion expressed in the 15th paragraph of our letter to your Honorable Court of the 21st June last, that the Siamese Court and Nation are not sufficiently advanced in civilization and intelligence respecting other states, duly to appreciate the motives which have actuated the British Government in all the attempts made towards conciliation and friendly intercourse; and from the unsettled and ambitious character of the Rajah of Ligore, we cannot reasonably indulge the expectation that we shall speedily be relieved from the many inconveniences which this Settlement has experienced, since the period of his subversion of the Malayan Government of Kedah.

5. It is however, a satisfactory reflection, that the measures adopted last year by this Government, and which have been approved by the Right Honorable the Governor General, have tended to arrest the projects of Conquest entertained by the Rajah of Ligore to the Southward, and that the Court of Siam has acknowledged the independence of the Malayan Principalities of Perak and Salangore and engaged to abstain from all future interference.

6. Captain Burney proceeded to Bengal on the 16 Instant, for the purpose of submitting his reports to the Supreme Government, and receiving the orders of that Authority respecting the ratification or otherwise of the Treaty which he negotiated. That officer proposes touching in the first instance at Quedah to deliver letters and presents sent by the Governor General to the Chief of Ligore, and then at Tavoy for the purpose of landing a few Burmans who were rescued from captivity at Bangkok.

7. We are in daily expectation of the return of Captain Low who was deputed to Perak to notify the measures in progress, and the negotiations pending for securing the future independence of that State. We shall take the earliest opportunity of transmitting his report to your Honorable Court.

We have the honor to be,
with the greatest respect,
HONORABLE SIRS,
Your most obedient,
faithful humble Servants
(Signed) R. FULLERTON
" R. IBBETSON.

Fort Cornwallis
The 16th October 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

No. 1.

FORT WILLIAM 24th Novr. 1826.

To G. Swinton Esqre.
Secretary to Government Political Department.
Fort William.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor in Council to transmit for the information of the Right Honble. the Vice President in Council copy of a further Letter from the Superintendent of Police dated the 9th Instant, reporting upon the equipments of the Siamese in this neighbourhood.

2. I at the same time transmit enclosed copy of a letter from Captain Burney the Envoy to Siam just received from Queda. The Honble. the Governor in Council did not attach much importance to the rumours of the equipments referred to when the first report from the Superintendent of Police was received nor would the subject have excited much attention unless Captain Burney had stated in his former reports that additional fortifications were ordered from Bangkok.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Secretary to Government.

Fort Cornwallis
26th Octr. 1826.

Encl. in No. 1.

To the Honble. R. Fullerton Esqre.
Governor &c. &c. &c.

Honble. Sir,

The private Agent sent to examine the Setool River has just returned. He was at that place four days and quitted it on the 5th Instant. He says there are fifty prahus of the following sizes and descriptions ready in that river and others equipping vizt.

15 of about 12 Koyans Burthen
20 ,, 8 ,, ,,
15 ,, 5 ,, ,,

about 200 Malay workmen are employed in the equipment of these boats and in preparing planks with loop holes and other materials the same as at Purlis. This man shall be dispatched as soon as possible to endeavour and ascertain the force in the Trang River. It is however a difficult duty to execute, the Siamese being very suspicious of persons going to these places and very strict in their orders.

A Pirate force of about 20 sail is cruizing to the northward of Setool, they made an attack on Lingoo a short time since and burnt about 100 houses.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER

Monday
9th Octr. 1826.

P. S. The Commander of the Blossom reports that the Siamese at Kedah are building two very large boats at that place, he thinks of not less than 20 or 25 Kyans Burthen.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

FORT WILLIAM 24th November 1826.

No. 1, contd.

To John Anderson Esquire,
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have to make the following report to you for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council.

Shortly after the Brig Guardian had anchored here yesterday evening the Governor of Queda's interpreter came off and I arranged with him the ceremonial of delivering the letter and presents from the Right Honble. the Governor General to the Rajah of Ligore. Two state boats came to meet us at 9 o'clock this morning when the public letter and presents were landed under a salute of 19 Guns from the Brig and delivered to the young Chief with such demonstrations of respect as appeared to me likely to make an impression upon him and his followers.

In addition to the Buganda Muda and Cheom Pyaban I was introduced to Pho Noat another of the Rajah of Ligore's sons. Upon questioning them concerning the equipments said to be preparing at Purlis, Setool and Khantannee, the young chief replied "you will not believe me if I deny the truth of what you have heard at Penang, but I will now furnish you with letters to the chiefs of those places and you may go and satisfy yourself." I declined to accept his offer, but advised him to address the Honble. the Governor and request that he may be pleased to send a confidential native servant to receive such letters at Queda and go and examine the several ports at which the warlike equipments are said to be preparing, and this the young chief promised to do immediately. I explained however properly that the Honble. the Governor had no objection to the Siamese keeping up 50 or 60 boats and employing them against the piratical fleets which now infest this neighbourhood.

I then addressed a letter to the Rajah of Ligore according to the tenor of the instructions communicated to me in the 11th para. of your letter No. 1418.

A contemptible bamboo fence at one part of the mouth of the river is the only addition which appears to me to have been made to the fortifications at this place since I was last here.

I propose returning to the Brig and prosecuting my voyage this evening.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt.
Envoy to Siam.

Queda
19th Octr. 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

FORT WILLIAM 1st December 1826.

No. 1.

To

G. Swinton Esqre.
Secretary to Government
Political Department
Fort William.

Poll. Dept.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor in Council to transmit the accompanying duplicate of a Dispatch to the Right Honble. Lord Amherst Governor General in Council* relative to Captain Burney's Mission to Siam.

*Copied from Straits Settlements, vol. 138.

The original was forwarded per the Brig Guardian which left this harbour on the 16th Instant, having on board the Envoy and part of the Escort. Captain Burney proposed touching at Kedah to deliver the letter and presents from the Right Honble. the Governor General to the Rajah of Ligore, and at Tavoy to land a few Burmese whom he brought from Bangkok.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Secry. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
the 26th Octr. 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

Fort William 1st December 1826.

No. 4.

To Captain Burney

Envoy to Siam.

Sir,

Par: 1st. I am directed by the Honble. the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th Instant, with Journal and Treaty.* The sentiments of this Government will be detailed at length to the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council. In the mean time the Honble. the Governor deems it right to convey to you the opinions entertained on the Subject, as connected with the Interests of the Malay Peninsula.

* Copied from Straits Settlements vol. 138.

2d. The first Article without the specification of the countries admitted to be dependent or independent is mere general declaration and not susceptible of any remark.

3d. The 12th Article respecting Tringano and Kalantan appears to be worded with considerable ambiguity, so as to leave to each party the right of self construction. But the whole wording of the article would seem to convey, by implication, the admission of complete supremacy of Siam over these States, the express disavowal of which was a main object of the Government. The Siamese are bound not to go and interrupt the Trade with Tringano, and the British Government are bound not to go and attack and molest that State, but whether the provision against the interruption of trade is meant to preclude every sort of interference on their part, or to leave them to exert it to the utmost, so long as trade is not interrupted, does not appear. The terms being of doubtful meaning, decision can only be conditional; and if this article is understood to leave to the British Government the right of direct treaty and negotiation

with these States, the right of opposing all forcible interference of the Siamese and the right of affording them complete protection, if such should hereafter be determined on, then, the article appears unobjectionable: if, on the other hand, it leaves undisputed power to Siam, of exerting its supremacy, and precludes our right of interference, then the article is in opposition to that line of policy to which, for the present at least, it was deemed by this Government indispensable to adhere. Article 13th. This article refers to Quedah entirely. From the length of time that has elapsed during which the Siamese have been allowed to remain in possession of that country, this Government were certainly not sanguine in their hopes of procuring their removal without some signal concession in another quarter. It is not to be denied however, that the articles of the Preliminary Treaty with the Rajah of Ligor gave some hopes of a favorable result, and that Treaty appears to have been written by the Chief himself, under the contemplation of the Ex-King's restoration. These expectations formed a strong inducement, as connected with this Presidency, for sending on the Mission, and although the necessity of foregoing these expectations and dropping all attempts in the Ex-King's favor on this occasion was contemplated, the Board certainly were not prepared to expect a stipulation amounting to nothing short of the entire abandonment of the King, his dismission from his last asylum, and our guarantee for his final renunciation of all future claims on his Kingdom. Having hitherto observed strict neutrality, and declined assisting him against Siam, it does not appear that this Government is authorized to take an active part against him, and become guarantee on the other side, by pledging our faith to prevent his seeking elsewhere that assistance which we have refused. However desirable it might be, that the residence of the King should be at a greater distance from his kingdom, it is evident that without his being a party

to the treaty, this Government cannot dictate to him his place of residence, he may indeed be required to quit our territory, and proceed elsewhere; if under the circumstances in which he came here such a course can be considered right. Supposing our interference in his behalf withdrawn, the Siamese could be entitled to no further stipulation than the implied one already admitted; that so long as he remained under our protection, no hostile attempts or preparations would be made against them. By the treaty, as now concluded, the Chief of Ligor has gained an advantage he never before possessed, the virtual acknowledgment of a right tacitly allowed, but never hitherto distinctly admitted, and the Board cannot see in any part of the treaty a corresponding benefit to us, even though we were disposed to accept any on such conditions. Every argument will be used to induce the Ex-King to reside at Malacca, because, under present circumstances, it is evident, that such is the best arrangement that can now be made; but, if he finally decides on remaining, the Honble. the Governor in Council cannot reconcile to any principle of justice or right his forcible removal, and cannot recommend the ratification of a treaty involving the necessity of such a measure. It is obvious, indeed, that after the Ex-King quits British territory, it would be quite impossible to pledge ourselves against hostile attempts on Ligore.

Article 14th. This article is so far satisfactory that it confirms the preliminary agreement made in respect to Perak. It declares the King independent, and being a treaty made by us, it may be urged it gives us the right of supporting that independence. The insertion of provisions for sending the Boonga Mas and for receiving certain persons in a friendly way, completely betray the latent objects of the Chief of Ligore; he has not probably the slightest intentions of adhering to the spirit of that article, and we may expect the exercise of every trick

which cunning and deceit can devise, to evade its execution. That an independent Sovereign should send and receive such persons as he pleases, and should even send a silver flower to another Prince, if he pleases, requires no treaty, they are only found in the one now before the Board to cover other plans and intentions. It may be said, indeed, that the treaty gives us the right to interfere more forcibly, but what are the objects of treaties, but to come to amicable understanding and prevent so disagreeable an alternative? A treaty to be executed by absolute force is of a very negative advantage. The farther measures connected with this article will be stated hereafter. The Board proceed to the further consideration of the treaty.

6. All the articles affecting commercial relations appear satisfactory, but the Board entertain so very slight expectation of their being adhered to, that they scarcely consider it necessary to discuss them. Those applicable to trade at Bangkok appear to place our commercial relations there on a more favorable footing. This was an object of negotiation suggested by the Resident of Singapore, and one which never appeared to the Board to be of much importance or likely to be obtained. So little faith can be placed on their provisions that the Board consider it would be infinitely better for the merchants to receive the produce of Siam and return their goods in exchange by the native junks frequenting Singapore, than to risk their persons to insult, their property to plunder, and the British Government to the necessity of resenting it by going to war with Siam. The tendency to extortion on the part of Siamese Officers at Bangkok is more likely to be checked by the forfeiture of the advantages resulting from fair commercial intercourse, and self interest seems more likely to induce moderation than any public negotiation.

7. The Board now proceed to submit to you a few general observations on the progress of the Mission. The several matters connected with the late war with Ava, in which communication with Siam became necessary, the Board admit to have been paramount considerations, so long as the war continued.

8. The hopes of co-operation from Siam appeared to have ceased, in some degree, before you proceeded to Bangkok. To induce the Siamese force in the neighbourhood of Martaban to advance in support of Colonel Pepper's Detachment, and to cover the attack upon Tongoh, seemed, however, to be considered by Sir Archibald Campbell as a most important object, and although every argument used by you proved unavailing, it is but justice to notice your unremitting exertions for that purpose.

9. In keeping them to neutrality at least, and preventing those occurrences as likely to arise from the proximity of the Siamese to the very weak force at Martaban and the Tenasserim Coast, which might if not checked, have produced rupture between the two Governments, your interposition has no doubt been most usefully employed, and in the recovery from slavery and misery of so many unhappy beings taken away from countries under the protection and control of the British Government, the cause of humanity has been signally promoted and one subject of dispute and contention between the two Governments removed. While the Board therefore, gives you all due credit for the patience, perseverance and temper, displayed by you under all the trying circumstances, inseparable from negotiations with such a vain, arrogant and conceited court, candour obliges them to confess, that in all matters connected with the Malay Peninsula the Mission must be considered, in some degree, to have failed, and that the state of our relations with our neighbours is not materially improved by the result; for this the Board can be at no loss to account. You

seem all along to have relied principally, on the influence of the Chief of Ligore, in all your negotiations. Now considering that the Rajah of Ligore was the aggressor, and is now in actual possession of Quedah, deriving all the advantages therefrom, that he is, moreover, the person directing all the interference and aggression on the state of Perak and Salengore, that he is by far the most intriguing and ambitious of all the Siamese Chiefs, it was not likely that his influence would ever be exerted towards the completion of the objects in which this Government were interested. The very reverse might safely have been presumed. The counteraction and destruction of this man's influence ought therefore to have been the first object of your arrangements, he should have been represented in his true Character, as a most troublesome neighbour to the British, as the person of all others most likely to bring on a rupture between the two Governments, instead of which course you appear to have consulted him and been guided by him on several occasions. You seem to have made him the principal medium and source of your most important communications. By such a course his influence has been much increased instead of being diminished. He must now be viewed as the only person fit to meet an European opponent, either in war or diplomacy. Contrasting indeed the success that has attended your endeavours in every object wherein the interests of Ligore were not involved, with the failure in those which in any way affected the views and intentions of that chief, it cannot be doubted that he has been our main enemy at the Court of Siam, and it must be a matter of regret, that these Settlements have such a neighbour. It cannot be doubted that he will now return to Queda with increased arrogance and presumption and with extended views of conquest. Established as his influence now must be, the great portion of the military strength of Siam will be at his disposal in the prosecu-

tion of those views, and whatever that portion may be, we may expect it to be situated not many miles from this island. The Board cannot but anticipate therefrom much serious inconvenience, unless met by the most steady and unremitting opposition. The Board admit that at the time you proceeded on the Mission and during the first part of its progress, objects connected with the Burmese war were the most important: a conciliatory and temporizing policy was required and if the prevention of hostilities with Siam could have been ensured only by the abandonment of the views of the Government, such would have been viewed as a necessary sacrifice of local to general objects of more importance, but after the Burmese war had been brought to a successful termination, the Board are of opinion, you might have assumed a higher tone, and availing yourself of the impression produced by that event, and of the alarms under which you represent the Siamese to have laboured about that time, the Board are disposed to think, that had you seriously urged on the Court of Siam all the objects of your Mission (the restoration of Quedah included) as essential and indispensable to the maintenance of peace between the two states, every one would have been conceded.

10. In closing these observations, the Board must however in justice to you admit the difficulty with which you had to contend, from the impracticable character of the people with whom you had to deal; the necessity of yielding some points for the attainment of others; and the manifest expediency of coming to a sort of understanding, instead of quitting the Court, if not on actually hostile, at least on unfriendly terms. As the Right Honble. the Governor General will no doubt expect that the treaty should be accompanied by the final and decisive opinion of this Government on its merits, the Board will be happy to receive from you such explanation as you have to offer respecting the true intent and meaning of the

different provisions alluded to in the letter, as well as your opinion in regard to the declarations which might be made on ratification so as to remove the objectionable part of the provisions, and leave the future measures of this Government less shackled than they seem to be by the letter of the treaty as it now stands.

II. In reference to transactions that have taken place connected with your Mission and on which further measures may be required, I am directed to enclose copies of information given relative to the affairs of Perak; from these you will perceive, there is every reason to believe, that the treaty with Ligore had no sooner been executed on our part, and Fa'ah Hussein removed, than the former Chief sent upwards of 200 people, who in reality on the plea of demanding the Boonga Mas, actually assumed the complete management of the country; The Honble. the Governor in Council refrained at that juncture from proceeding to measures which might have seriously affected your negotiations and deemed it better to await your return; but as the Treaty on the Subject Perak, now concluded, virtually confirms the former, it became necessary to take some measures to counteract the views of Ligore against that state. Of the real sentiments of the King of Perak the Honble. the Governor in Council entertains no doubt; his letters as well as his communication with Mr. Anderson are sufficiently clear on this point. That he should prefer connections with, or in other words submission to Ligore to independence under our guarantee, can scarcely be believed. Any appearance of doubt or disinclination on his part, if such should appear, can now be ascribed only to intimidation, produced by the artful machinations of the Chief of Ligore, which it must in the first instance be our object to counteract. For this purpose Captain Low has been deputed to Perak, a Copy of the instructions given him and of other papers connected therewith are now enclosed. On the receipt of inform-

ation from Perak respecting the transactions above alluded to, letters were written to the young Chief of Ligore, also to his father. Copies of them are enclosed. No notice whatever has been taken, and as it is indispensable that the Chief of Ligore should be brought to some explanation on these points, the draft of another letter is enclosed, of which it is the desire of the Honble. the Governor in Council that you should be the bearer as far as Queda. In presenting it to the young chief for transmission to his father, as it is probable the latter will not have arrived, you will use every argument to convince the young Chief that treaties and agreements are not made with a British Government to be executed or not at the pleasure of the parties. That the one respecting Perak must be strictly performed. That he must abstain from any interference whatever with Perak, that his sending people there will render it necessary for us to do the same and that the whole objects of the arrangement must be destroyed. You will yourself address a letter to the Chief of Ligore to the same effect. You will easily perceive that the object in view is to retain all things as they are, pending ultimate decision of superior authority. The delivery of the letter and presents from the Right Honble. the Governor General was delayed in consequence of the absence of the Chief from Ligore and the necessity of accompanying them by some ceremony beyond their simple transmission; in the mean time the accounts above alluded to were received, and the letter having been written on the confirmation of a treaty which there then seemed reason to believe the Chief himself had broken, doubts were entertained as to the propriety of their delivery to the Rajah until some explanation was received. As the new treaty made at Siam confirms the other in respect to Perak, and as it is still to be hoped the Chief will adhere to it, the Board do not think themselves at liberty longer to withhold their delivery. It is intended therefore that you should carry them with you to Queda to

be put into the hands of the young Chief. From Quedah you will proceed to Bengal, transmitting by some safe conveyance, the result of your proceedings, of which you will of course make a full report to the Supreme Government. The letter from the Supreme Government enclosed contains the only subject not already noticed on the point. The Board are of opinion that the payment of the 2,000 Dollars from the King of Salengore need not be insisted on. The death of the old Chief, and succession of another might give rise to some new discussions, attended with much inconvenience.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Secry. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

the 25th September 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 342.

FORT WILLIAM 1st December 1826.

Penang 18th September 1826.

No. 5.

Honorable Sir,

In consequence of the report I had the other day made to me regarding the Siamese preparations at Purlis, I sent one of our people well acquainted with that place and many of the inhabitants there to ascertain the truth or otherwise of what had been stated. This man has just returned and confirms the former information. He says there are about twenty or twenty five prahus (ten of very large size) in the Purlis River, and that they are actively preparing all kinds of things at Rangah where the Rajah of Ligor's son commands. Large quantities of rice and paddy and gunpowder are already collected. About 4 or 500 large thick planks with loop holes, some hundreds of triangle stands for Swivels, and bundles of bamboo spikes are also ready and stored in sheds and Godowns at this place, and were seen by my informant on Thursday last the 14th Instant. Sixteen of the principal Malay men of Purlis are appointed Panglimas to superintend and forward these matters, particularly boats, sails, of which a considerable quantity are ready. Similar equipments are said to be going on in the Setool and Trang Rivers, but on much larger scale than at Purlis, particularly at Trang.

The Siamese give out to the Malays that all these preparations are for defence against the English who intend attacking them: the Malays however say it is well known that the Rajah of Ligore is expected in about two months, and intends to make an attack on this Island, and that all these preparations are for this purpose.

Rangah is a town in the Purlis country situated some distance up that river. One of the Rajah of Ligor's sons to whom the Government of this Country has been confided resides at this place. At or near the mouth of the river is another town called Kyang where a Siamese officer commands under the orders of the Chief of Rangah.

I am &c.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

To the Honble.

R. Fullerton Esqre.

Governor &c. &c. &c.

FORT WILLIAM 1st December 1826.

Proposed Agreement offered to the Ex Rajah of Quedah.

No. 12.

First. The King agrees to go and reside at a place allotted to him within the limits of the Settlement of Malacca.

Second. The King binds himself not to attack, disturb or injure, nor permit any of his followers to attack, disturb or injure in any manner the territory of Quedah, or any other territory subject to Siam.

Third. The Government of Prince of Wales Island agrees that the slaves, personal servants, family and kindred of the late King of Quedah shall be released by the Rajah of Ligore and permitted to proceed where they please, and to join the King and reside with him at Malacca if they desire it.

Fourth. The Government of Prince of Wales Island agree to pay on account of the support of the King and his family the sum of Ten thousand Spanish Dollars or Sicca Rupees 21,050 per Annum.

Fifth. The Government of Prince of Wales Island agree to allot a space of land to be occupied by the King of Quedah and Dependants at Malacca not exceeding—Orlongs.

Sixth. The Government of Prince of Wales Island agree to receive from the King of Quedah the House lately purchased by him and pay the amount of the same, deducting the advance made on that account still due.

Seventh. The Government of Prince of Wales Island agree to furnish proper accommodation in a suitable vessel for the transportation of the King and his Family to Malacca.

Prince of Wales Island

the 15th September 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 139 p. 1.

FORT CORNWALLIS the 19th October 1826.

To the son of the Rajah of Ligore, 6th October 1826.

To the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah.

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang to acquaint my friend that he has duly received the letters from the Raja of Ligore, brought by his Envoys Koon Aksorn and Nai Niem who propose making some stay here. I therefore dispatch this letter by the Honble. the Governor's directions to apprise my friend that Captain Burney will proceed from hence to Kedah in a few days.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Government.

Pinang.

6th October 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 139, pp. 22-23.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 26 October 1826.

Translation

Rajah of Kedah dated 5 October 1826.

of a letter from the Ex Rajah of Kedah to the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After compliments.)

The letter which my friend sent me has reached me, and I understand all that is therein mentioned. With respect to the proposed engagement relative to my residing at Malacca, I have stated my sentiments in my former letter, and I have well considered the subject. I cannot conform to that engagement, for the object of my coming to Pulo Penang was to receive assistance from the English King of Europe and the Company, to recover my own country ; for I was well aware that the power of the King of Europe and the Company was greater than the Siamese, and at present the English King of Europe and the Company are very faithful in adhering to every engagement, and are very compassionate to all people, nor do they like to see any dissension : This is what I have been trusting to, and waiting till this day ; and I, now again beg my friend will assist me in that manner, so that I may return to my own country.

Dated 4th Rabialawal 1242, or 5th October 1826.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

Prince of Wales Island

The 9 : October 1826.

Factory Records, Straits, Settlements, Vol. 139, pp. 32-33.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 26 October 1826.

Translation

of a letter from the son of the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah to the Malay Translator.

(After Compliments.)

I make known to my friend that Captain Henry Burney arrived with the letter and articles from the Right Honble. Lord Amherst, Governor of Bengal, and a letter from the Governor of Pulo Penang, which were sent to me to be forwarded to the Chow Pya of Ligore. I received them according to the pleasure of Captain Burney.

The letters and things from the Right Honble. Lord Amherst, Governor of Bengal and Governor of Pulo Penang, I have sent in Charge of Khoon Aksorn and Nai Niem to be presented to the Chow Pya of Ligore.

When Captain Burney arrived at Quedah, he mentioned to me that people at Pulo Penang were reporting that at Quedah, Purlis and Setool many prows and planks were preparing, but I told him that it was not the case. Captain Henry Burney then desired me to send a letter to the Governor of Pulo Penang, and let him order some persons to examine and I will send them on with orders to examine all the places and they can afterwards return to report to my friends.

Dated 21st of 11th Month, Sunday.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

The 25 October 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 34-36.

Supdt. of Police 31st October 1826.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 2d November 1826.

Tuesday 31st October 1826.

Honble. Sir,

The man sent to examine the Trang river returned this morning having left that place six days ago. He reports that there are about 400 prahus of different sizes at Khoontani, 370 of which counted by himself, are ready for launching, and the others preparing with all dispatch. He says there are also a brig and a small schooner there ready. The largest class of these prahus he thinks are about 10 Koyans burthen, of which there are about 200—the others are somewhat smaller varying from 8 to 5 Koyans.

Besides the prahus now at Khoontani, about 50 were equipped and dispatched to the Lingoo river about a month ago, most of which are now at that place.

At Khoontani they are preparing planks with loop holes, swivel stands, and other materials, also stores of grain as at Purlis and Setool, only on a much more extensive scale.

There are assembled at Khoontani about 5,000 Siamese and Malays and 6 or 700 Chinese. The Rajah of Ligore is expected there in a few weeks, and orders have been lately received from him, forwarded from Bankok to collect a store of Charcoal, Saltpetre &ca.

The man who gives this information was at Khoontani eight days, and left that place as before noticed six days ago. He knows Khoontani well having been there before. He got up in a fishing boat passing himself for a Lankawi trader who had touched there on his way to Pungah, to procure a supply of rice and other necessaries; he would not under any other circumstances have been permitted to proceed up the river, the Siamese being very suspicious of all strangers, and averse to allowing them to go up the

river. From the place where he took a passage near the mouth of the river, they were eight hours ascending to Khoontani.

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER

The Honble.

Robert Fullerton Esqr.

Governor &c. &c. &c.

N. B. The preparations at Khoontani are carrying on under the orders of a Ligor Chief styled the Choom Room or Chom Rom.

Minute by the President. pp. 36-38.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Referring to the letter of intimation just received from Mr Caunter, and to the one addressed by the young Chief of Ligor to the Malay Translator under date the 25th October, I propose that Mr Gotlieb be dispatched to Quedah in the Blossom with an appropriate letter to the Young Chief requesting the necessary powers being given to authorize his entering the different rivers particularly at Trang—to examine into the truth of the reported armament there. The Young Chief having made the offer there seems no objection to our trying his sincerity. If Mr Gotlieb should be permitted to proceed as far as Khoontani, some information may be obtained respecting that river which would be desirable. Mr Gotlieb should be directed to communicate with Mr Caunter on this subject and proceed as soon as possible. Little instruction is required—he will carry the letter to the Chief and if the request be promptly complied with he will proceed on his investigation. Should any se ious obstacles, delays or difficulties be offered, it may be presumed means are taking to defeat the object of examination and in that case Mr Gotlieb may return. The whole proceeding must be founded on the voluntary offer of the Young Chief, and enquiry or investigation must not be pressed should any objection be made or even disinclination be evinced.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

2d. November 1826.

RESOLVED that Captain Gotlieb, the Assistant to the Master Attendant, be directed to proceed on board the Honble. Company's Schooner Zephyr for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects detailed in the President's Minute and that the following letter of instructions be addressed to him.

Instructions to Captain Gotlieb.
pp. 38-40.

To

CAPTAIN GOTLIEB.

To

F. G. Gotlieb Esqre.

Assistant to the Master Attendant.

Sir, I am directed to acquaint you that a variety of reports have lately been received of extensive equipments of prows at the Northern ports of Quedah, particularly in the Trang and Singore rivers. At Khontani, about 8 hours sail up the Trang river there are reported to be about 400 Prows already equipped and at Singoo about 50.

2d. The Honorable the Governor in Council being desirous to ascertain the truth or otherwise of such rumours has determined upon availing himself of the permission lately received from the Son of the Rajah of Ligor at Quedah—who has consented to permit an agent from this Government to examine the several rivers, and I am accordingly instructed to desire that you will make immediate preparations for proceeding with the Schooner Zephyr on this service.

3. You will deliver the accompanying letter to the young Siamese Chief at Quedah and it is presumed that he will appoint some person or persons, agreeably to his professed intentions to accompany you to the Northward. You will accordingly lose no time in examining the several rivers, particularly the Trang, and endeavour by every possible means to ascertain the truth of the reported armaments there.

4. It is expected that if you are permitted to proceed to Khoontani, some information may be obtained respecting the Trang river, which is very desirable, as little is at present known regarding it.

5. You are requested to communicate with the Superintendent of Police, who has lately been collecting information on the subject referred to.

6. If the request contained in the letter to the Siamese Chief be promptly complied with, you will proceed on the investigation with as little delay as possible; but should any serious obstacles, delays or difficulties be offered, it may be presumed means are taking to defeat the object of examination and in that case you will return here. Enquiry and investigation must not be pressed should any objection be made or disinclination be evinced.

I am &ca.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON

Secretary to Government.

Fort Cornwallis

the 2d. Novr. 1826.

Malay Translator to the son of the Rajah of Ligore 31 Octr. 1826.

pp. 41-42.

LETTER from the Malay Translator to the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah.

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca to acknowledge the receipt of my friend's letter dated the 25th of the 11th Month, respecting having received the letter and presents from Right Honble. the Governor General and forwarded them to the Rajah of Ligore.

My friend also alludes to some reports which had been circulated here relative to equipments of prows &c. at the several ports in the Kedah territory and as a proof of his good intentions desires that some confidential person may be sent to examine the several rivers. Although the Honble. the Governor gives but little credence to such rumours, yet as my friend has voluntarily evinced so gratifying a proof of his good intentions and disposition to set at rest all floating reports which might have a tendency to excite uncordial feelings between the two Governments, the Honble. the Governor has directed the bearer Mr Gotlieb to wait on my friend and accompany such person or persons as may be appointed to proceed to the Northward, as well for the purpose of making an investigation which will put a stop to any reports, as to search for pirates, who are reported to be in that quarter, which he will be the more readily enabled to do by the friendly permission now granted by my friend to enter and examine the several rivers.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

Pinang
31st Octr. 1826.

Malay Translator to the Rajah of Kedah 2 Nov. 1826.

pp. 42-43.

LETTER from the Malay Translator to the Rajah of Quedah.

I have to acquaint my friend that I communicated the contents of his note of Yesterday to the Honble. the Governor and am directed to acquaint him in reply that the Honble. the Governor cannot, under present circumstances, give his assent to my friend's settling his house and removing to the opposite shore, nor can any loan be made to him. He desires me to add that so long as my friend pleases to remain here quietly the same protection which has hitherto been extended and the same pecuniary allowance which has been granted will be continued.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Government.

Penang 2d Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 139, pp. 167-8. Minute by the President.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 13th November 1826.

MINUTE BY THE PRESIDENT.

The Political Agency of Mr. Crawfurd, late Resident at Singapore in respect to Siam, it is presumed ceases with the annexation of that Settlement to this Government; the communications with Bangkok hitherto kept up from Singapore, must now therefore be conducted by us. I propose therefore that we avail ourselves of the complimentary letter lately addressed by the Prah Klang to open our correspondence. Situated as we now are, the practice of communicating only through a subordinate Chief is liable to objection and is calculated to lower ourselves in the estimation of the superior state. It seems therefore indispensable that we should adopt measures of placing before the Court of Siam the true state of affairs in this quarter, for it must be evident that so long as the Chief of Ligore is the only channel, there can be but little hopes of a faithful account being transmitted, and we shall be subjected to all the inconveniences that must necessarily result from a course of misrepresentations. I propose therefore, that a letter to the following effect be transmitted to the Prah Klang.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

7th November 1826.

To

The Pya Klang

Bangkok.

I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, brought by Captain Burney and lose no time in replying to it, and expressing the high gratification with which I have observed the prospect of peace and harmony being established and increased between the British and Siamese Governments. It is my anxious desire to maintain the most amicable relations with the Government of Siam.

Captain Burney has proceeded to Bengal to procure the ratification of the treaty lately concluded and the terms of that engagement must, in the mean time, form the rule to be observed. Any deviation therefrom will of course disturb the expected harmony and good understanding.

It is with regret that I am compelled to acquaint your Excellency, for the information of His Majesty the King of Siam, that we have cause to be dissatisfied with the conduct of the Rajah of Ligore. His Highness agreed with Captain Burney not to send any persons to Perak and this Government agreed to remove from that Country the people of Salengore. The engagement on the part of the British Government was duly performed without delay, but the Rajah of Ligore deviated from his engagement, and sent agents, with a considerable number of followers to Perak, and these persons excited much confusion.

Desirous however of preserving amicable relations with Siam, I abstained from any further measures beyond remonstrance, trusting in the honor and justice of His Majesty of Siam and the certainty of the

interposition of his authority. The persons sent to Perak, it is true, have lately been withdrawn, but there is reason to believe that the Rajah of Ligore meditates sending others there.

The late Treaty provides that the King of Perak shall rule his kingdom in his own way, and that he is not to receive any person into his country against his consent. I have fully ascertained that he does not wish any other state to interfere with him, and hence if the Rajah of Ligore sends people to Perak to remain against the consent of the King, the treaty will be broken, and danger of disputes between the English Government and that of Siam will arise. So long however as the Chief of Ligore refrains from sending people to Perak and from interfering in any way, this Government will do the same, but treaties made must be adhered to.

The charge of the British Settlements of Pulo Penang, Malacca and Singapore, and of the British interests in this quarter have been committed to my superintendence by the authorities in Europe. It is therefore not only the Government of Pulo Penang and the Chief of Ligore that will be involved in dispute by any infraction of the treaty, but the British Government and that of Siam, which ought always to be at peace.

In order to prevent mistakes and misunderstanding, I have considered it right and proper to communicate direct with the Court of Siam, and I enclose a copy of the letter sent to the Chief of Ligore. It is my intention to follow the same course in all future cases, and I trust that His Majesty of Siam, duly appreciating the motives which induce me to do so, will favor me with the like communication and enjoin the

Rajah of Ligore to the most scrupulous adherence to the treaty, and to the maintenance of Harmony, and a good understanding with this Government, which being so near for communication is always desirous to be at peace with its neighbours.

I remain

Your Excelleney's &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

P. W. Island
the 7th Novr. 1826.

Bengal
Despatches Vol.
103, pp. 80-2.

Bengal

Political Department.

OUR GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL

at FORT WILLIAM

in BENGAL.

* * * * * *

ANSWER to POLITICAL LETTER dated

30th January 1824.

[Para: 1 to 4; also 23 to 36 and 44, 45 of General Letter from Prince of Wales Island, dated 31st July 1824] Discussions with the Siamese Authorities of Kedah. Suspected designs of the Rajah of Ligore on Penang. Negotiations for the restoration of the Rajah of Kedah. Mission of Lieut. Low to Ligore. Measures adopted by the Government of Prince of Wales Island in aid of the expedition to Rangoon. A stipend of 30 Dollars per Month granted by the Government to the family of the late Laxamana of Kedah, who was put to death by the Siamese.

4. We learn with satisfaction that the suspicions entertained with respect to the designs of the Rajah of Ligore were unfounded, and that an amicable arrangement is likely to be concluded with that Chief for the restoration of our ancient Ally, the Rajah of Kedah, to his dominions.

5. The negotiation which has been opened with Siam, for the purpose of obtaining the cooperation of that State against the King of Ava, will be considered with the general subject of the Burmese War.

6. We do not object to the Stipend which has been assigned to the family of the late Minister of Kedah, it being equal in amount to that which had been granted to the family of his late Colleague the Bindhara.

* * * * * *

We are

Your affectionate Friends

(Signed) G. A. ROBINSON

&c. &c. &c.

LONDON

the 8th Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 184.

January 25th. 1827.

To THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

Para. 1. Our last letter in this Department was dated the 16th October, and with reference to the concluding paragraph of that dispatch, we have now the honor, in transmitting our proceedings from the 19th October to this date, to bring to the notice of your Honorable Court the report of Captain Low,* who was deputed to Perak, in order to notify the measures in progress, and the negotiations pending with Siam for securing the future independence of that State. We have also to request the attention of your Honorable Court to letters from Captain Campbell of His Majesty's Ship Cyrene, and our Malay Translator,* together with the Minute of our President thereon.

Cons. 2 Nov. * To be Copied from Straits Settlements vol. 139.

Cons. 13 Nov. * Ditto.

2. We have not yet received any reply from the Supreme Government to our dispatches respecting the late Mission of Captain Burney to Siam, referred to in our letter to your Honorable Court under date the 16 October last.

3. By the Proceedings noted in the margin it will be observed that we have had occasion to address several remonstrances to the son of the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah,* relative to the dispatch of another party of Siamese to Perak, in direct violation of the treaty concluded with Captain Burney. The Rajah of Perak has earnestly solicited our active interference but our President has recommended the observation on his part of an inoffensive line of conduct towards the Siamese Authorities, and urged His Highness to abstain from

Cons. 13, 23 & 29 Nov. 7 & 18 Dec. * Ditto.

any act tending to provoke hostilities, pending the ratification of the treaty, in which his independence has been duly acknowledged, and his release from Siamese control stipulated for.

4. We have had no communication recently from the Rajah of Ligore; although we do not think it probable that he will now resort to any open act of violence or hostility, we have nevertheless considered it necessary to watch with due caution the insidious and clandestine proceedings of this intriguing Chief, the more especially as there seemed reason to believe, from the reports of our Superintendent of Police that a considerable force was re-assembling at Trang and some of the Northern Ports, and we request the notice of your Honorable Court, to the Minute of our President, proposing the deputation of Mr Gotlieb, the Acting Assistant to the Master Attendant, for the purpose of examining the several rivers. The reports of that gentleman will be found on the proceedings, and it will observed he was refused permission (as all the former Agents of this Government have been) to enter the Trang river, from whence the Siamese Equipments formerly issued, at which place also their principal preparations have been made, and to which the reports of the Superintendent of Police chiefly referred. Although we did not attach much importance to these reports, under present circumstances, yet we are of opinion they derived additional confirmation from the decided opposition made by the Ligore Chief to any examination of the Trang River, while he permitted access to some of the others from whence he had sufficient time to remove any prows that might have been assembled there as reported, and to disguise the preparations which had been noticed.

5. In respect to Perak, the same want of good faith which has characterised the Ligore Chief for several years past, still continues to mark his line of proceedings. While however, we shall deem it our duty

to defeat all attempts at any underhand evasion of the provisions of the Treaty, we shall not fail to continue the observance of as conciliatory a conduct as possible towards the Siamese Authorities.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

" R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 25th January 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, Vol. 345. Sect. Dept. No. 18.

FORT WILLIAM 23rd March 1827.

Envoy to Siam

Calcutta 9th March 1827.

To G. Swinton Esquire
Secretary to Government.

Sir.

I do myself the honor to transmit to you the accompanying Digested Narrative of the Proceedings of the late Mission to the Court of Siam, in which document I have introduced some additional information respecting the early history of the Malay Peninsula, collected from certain old authors to whose works I have had access at Calcutta. I have annexed a Geographical Sketch* of the Kingdom of Siam compiled by me from a great variety of native and European Authorities.

(* See map from Bengal Secret and Pol: Cons: Vol. 330.)

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Captain Envoy to Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 345. No. 19.

FORT WILLIAM 23rd. Mar. 1827.

NARRATIVE of Captain H. BURNEY'S MISSION to SIAM.

Calcutta 9th March 1827.

When the Supreme Government resolved upon the measure of deputing a Mission to the Court of Siam, detachments of Siamese Troops were in the immediate vicinity of Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, whilst the British Garrisons were confined within those places, and were of too reduced a strength to afford protection to the Burmese inhabitants in the interior, large parties of whom had been seized and forcibly carried away by the Siamese. In order to prevent any collision and embarrassment from such a state of things, and referring particularly to the character of the Siamese, a race so jealous and wholly ignorant of the principles of international law, near whose possessions the War against Ava had suddenly brought our Troops, it was judged advisable to communicate to the Siamese Court in a public and conciliatory manner, some knowledge of our ulterior views, and the accession of a new King to the throne of Siam was considered to furnish a good ostensible object for sending an Envoy to compliment and congratulate His Majesty. The Supreme Government did not consider Siamese co-operation in the Burmese War, as in any way important or desirable, and the Envoy was directed not to include an application for such aid in his negotiations, further than a supply of draft and Carriage Cattle, if practicable and required. The Envoy was instructed to offer the Compliments of the Right Honble. the Governor General on the accession of the new King, to assure His Majesty of our friendly disposition and desire to cultivate a good understanding with the Court of Siam, and to afford the fullest explanation on every point connected with the Burmese

War; and further, to keep the Court of Siam well informed of the progress of the War, and to persuade it to release all inhabitants, who might have been carried away by the Siamese Officers from the Tenasserim Coasts, since it fell into our possession. At the same time the Envoy was empowered to combine with the above objects, should circumstances prove favorable, an endeavour to effect the desired improvement in our commercial relations with Siam, and to secure every practicable degree of freedom and facility to our trade both in Upper and Lower Siam, as also the restoration of the King of Queda to his territories, on the terms and footing recommended by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, namely, His Highness of Queda to pay to the King of Siam a certain sum in money, not exceeding 4000 Spanish Dollars annually, for the due payment of which the Government of Prince of Wales Island to be guarantee, and His Highness to be liable to no further demands, orders, or mark of subjection on the part of the King of Siam or his Officers, unless perhaps to the triennial presentation of the *Bounga Mas* or Golden flower to His Majesty. This last mentioned object has been very inaccurately termed and considered as the most important part of the late Mission; and it becomes necessary therefore to state distinctly, that the character of the Mission was entirely complimentary and conciliatory, and that the primary and most important object was the maintenance of harmony between two States which had suddenly come, in some degree, into contact, whose troops were in contiguity, and between whom subjects of difference and dispute were so likely to arise, and become Matter of hostile contention.

The Envoy left Calcutta in the Month of May 1825, and upon his arrival at Prince of Wales Island, found the Native inhabitants there in the greatest state of alarm, at some extensive equipments that the Rajah, or Siamese Governor of Ligor had collected at

Queda, for the purpose of proceeding to occupy the State of Perak, which had been brought under Siamese dominion in the Year 1818 by the King of Queda, and to attack the Chief of Salengore, who had in 1822 driven out of Perak a party of Siamese, and had since established his Nephew at the Mouth of the Perak River to control the trade and Government of that State. Under the sanction and instruction of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, the Envoy visited the Rajah of Ligor at Queda, and on the 31st of July prevailed upon his Highness to enter into a Provisional Treaty, agreeing to dismiss his Armament, and leave his quarrel with the Chief of Salengore to the mediation of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, and engaging not to send any force, by land or Water, to the Southward of Penang, to accompany the Envoy to the King of Siam, if that Officer would touch at Ligor on his way to Siam.

The Mission consisting of Captain H. Burney as Envoy, Captain H. Macfarquhar as his Assistant and in command of the Escort, and Mr. Acting Assistant Surgeon Harris, Sailed from Prince of Wales Island on board the Brig Guardian, Captn. G. Sutherland, on the 25th Septr. and after touching at Malacca and Singapore, arrived at Tringano on the 17th October. Here it found the King of Siam's Ship detained, in consequence of a report having been brought, just before, of an English expedition being under equipment at Singapore for the purpose of proceeding to attack Bangkok. The Mission arrived at Ligor on the 28th of October. The severe illness of the Rajah of Ligor's youngest and favorite Son, added to the near approach of the adverse Monsoon, prevented His Highness from accompanying the Envoy to Siam by Water; but he delivered to the care of that officer one of his Sons, a Commissioner from Bangkok, and 17 of their followers, with letters addressed to the King and prin-

cipal Officers of the Court of Siam, receiving in return, Mr. Harris and Mr. Leal, one of the Envoy's Interpreters, whom His Highness engaged to bring with him over land as soon as his son recovered.

The Mission left Ligor on the 8th of November, arrived off the bar of Siam on the 20th and anchored off Paknam, a village at the mouth of the Menam, on the 28th. The Mission soon found, that all its exertions would be necessary to conciliate the Court of Siam, which had received the intelligence from Tringano of an expedition being under equipment at Singapore to attack Bangkok. That intelligence had excited a strong sensation at the capital, had caused the Forts of Paknam and Paklat to be hastily repaired and strengthened, and had now led the Court to transmit very peremptory orders to the Chief of Paknam to insist upon the delivery and deposit of the Guns of the Mission Brig at Paknam, and to receive no excuse. It has been an established custom of the Country, since the French were driven out of Bangkok, for all foreign Vessels to deposit their Guns at Paknam, before they proceed to the Capital; but this regulation was not enforced in the case of the Portuguese Consul, nor against Mr. Crawfurd, who was detained at Paknam for only 24 hours. The late Mission was detained 7 days, during which messages daily passed between the Minister and the Envoy, and Interpreters and other Siamese Officers were sent down to discover the real objects and personal character of the different Members of the Mission. Anxious as the Envoy was to conciliate the Court, he considered that he should not be justified in doing that which the Portuguese and the preceding British Mission had refused to do, and he feared that a compliance on his part would lead the Siamese Ministers to suppose, that the British Government was courting an alliance with Siam, and disposed to make sacrifices and concessions to her, in consequence of the Burmese War. The son, followers and letters of the

Rajah of Ligor were sent up to the capital, and their influence joined to a decided communication on the part of the Envoy, that if within 24 hours the Court did not supply the Mission with Boats, or permit the Brig to pass up to the Capital with her Guns, he should withdraw from the Country, induced the Ministers at length to submit the matter to the King; who immediately ordered the Brig to be passed and the Mission to be received with all honor and distinction. On the 4th December the Mission Brig was met at Paklat by a deputation with a Fleet of War Boats, and eight or nine large State Boats with Colours, Streamers and bands of Music for the purpose of conveying the Governor General's letter and the Envoy to the Capital where they arrived late on the evening of the same day.

The first discussions of the Envoy with the Phra Klang and other Siamese Officers respected the ceremonial to be observed at his presentation to the King. Exertions were made by them for 2 or 3 days, to persuade the Envoy to agree to take off his Shoes, and to perform the same prostrations as the Siamese. Such degrading ceremonies were at length overruled, and it was arranged that the Envoy himself should deliver the Governor General's Letter in the presence of the King, that he should be accompanied by his own Interpreters, and be permitted to read before His Majesty a complimentary speech (a Copy of which accompanied by a translation in the Siamese language was at the same time to be laid before the King) that in addition to the Members of the Mission, the Commander of the Brig Guardian, and Mr. Robert Hunter, a British Merchant residing at Bangkok, should be admitted to the Audience and that the whole party should be furnished with State Boats and suitable conveyances to take it to the Palace. It was agreed however, that the Envoy and those who accompanied him, should once perform a part of the Siamese mode of saluting His Majesty, namely to join their hands

and raise them three times against the forehead, and that the Envoy should not deliver the Governor General's letter into His Majesty's own hand, in the same manner as the French Ambassadors had formerly done, but deposit it in a Gold Vase to be placed a few paces in front of His Majesty. It is probable that the Envoy might have arranged these points also in a way more in conformity with European ideas of Court etiquette, but so earnest an appeal was made to him not to shock the feelings and pride of the Court by omitting all Siamese Modes of Salutation, or approaching close to His Majesty's person whilst the first Ministers of the Country would be lying prostrate at a distance, that he deemed it prudent to take the credit of making these concessions.

The Mission was introduced with great ceremony to His Majesty the King of Siam on the 16th Dec., and to His Highness the Wangna, or as he is styled by the Native Christians of Bangkok, the Second King, on the 18th, followed on both occasions by hundreds of Boats and an immense concourse of spectators. A House was specially built for the accommodation of the Mission, a Boat with 10 Boatmen was allotted and a Monthly allowance of 240 Ticals from the King and 120 from the Wangna was granted for the expenses of the Envoy's table. Rice and fruits were often sent to the followers, and Siamese Dishes regularly brought to the Envoy from the King and Wangna; tokens of royal favor and consideration that were said to excite the surprize and envy of every Siamese who witnessed them. The Mission was next introduced to Chao Krom Meun Soorin and Chao Krom Rak, the Princes of the Blood, placed at the head of the foreign and Judicial Departments of the Kingdom and the Envoy succeeded in being allowed to visit the two principal ministers of the Country, Chao Phya Chakri and Chao Piya Akha Mahasena or Kalahom, and several of the subordinate Ministers, such as Phya Kray, the Wangna's Phra Klang, Phya Wisoot his deputy, Phya

Phiphut Kosa the deputy of the King's Phra Klang, Chao Phya Maha Yotha, the General who commanded the Siamese Detachment near Martaban, and the Governors of Ligor and Singora. Finding the Foreign Minister, Chao Phya Phra Klang unfriendly to the Mission, and indisposed to repeat all its verbal representations to his colleagues, the other Five Ministers, with whom he forms the Privy Council of the Kingdom, the Envoy opened a communication in writing in the Siamese Language with those authorities, and prevailed upon them to allow him to attend their meetings and discuss and settle at repeated conferences with the whole of them, the several objects of his Mission. The Envoy obtained and audience of leave from the King on the 17th July, and from the Wangna on the 18th on the night of which day the Missiou quitted Bangkok charged with a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce, which the Envoy had negotiated with the Ministers, and with a reply from the King himself to the letter from the Right Honble. the Governor General.

We have already mentioned the report communicated from Tringano, of an expedition from Singapore being about to proceed against Siam. After the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, the wildest and most improbable tales respecting the hostile intentions of the British Government continued to be brought to Bangkok, by Peguers, Chinese, and above all, by Malays, who reported that immediately after the conquest of Ava the British Army was to move against Siam, that a Fleet of 60 Ships full of Troops had arrived at Mergui, and that another large fleet was equipping at Prince of Wales Island; and that the British Government had resolved upon expelling the Siamese from Queda, and taking possession of that Territory and of every other State on the Malayan Peninsula. The Mission was declared to have no other object than to endeavour to extort the consent of the Court of Siam to these last mentioned

measures, and the Establishment of a Factory and Resident at Bangkok, and if unsuccessful to gather intelligence respecting the Topography and resources of the Country, and the best mode of attacking the Capital. Fortunately, suspicion and true courage are seldom companions, or the Siamese would have been incited to have committed themselves, by attacking the British Garrisons on the Coast of Tenaserim. By patience and good humoured and reiterated exertions the Envoy succeeded at length in removing, in some degree, the distrust and jealousy of the Siamese Court, and in establishing communications with Mr. Commissioner Maingy at Tavoy, and with Captains Fenwick and Williamson at Martaban, through which officers the Siamese Ministers were kept more correctly informed of the progress of the War in Ava, at the same time that the British Commissioners in Pegu and Ava were fully apprized of the views, disposition and ability of the Siamese Government to afford our army any kind of facilities. But the first Measure that the Envoy had occasion to propose at Bangkok, brought down upon the Mission the hostility of almost all the Ministers and Subordinate Officers of the Court. Viewing the inhuman treatment which the Burmese prisoners from the Court of Tenasserim experienced from their Siamese Masters, the Envoy was induced to make great exertions to effect the immediate release and return of these poor Captives, who had been allotted as Slaves and gratuitous labourers among the different Ministers and Officers, whose personal interests therefore were strongly opposed to the measure of releasing them. It was long before Chao Phya Phra Klang could forgive the Envoy for having put a stop to a splendid temple which a party of these Burmese was building for that Minister, and he recommended the Court to transmit an order to the Rajah of Ligor, prohibiting him from bringing overland from Ligor Messrs. Harris and Leal, who, as above stated, had been left there. The order reached

the Rajah near Ch'hoomp'hon, and shortly after at Pothiu in about Latitude 11° 10'. His Highness made excuses for putting these Gentlemen into a small boat, and forwarding them by water to Bangkok, where they arrived three or four days before His Highness on the 31st of January. An allowance of half a *Chupah* of Paddy a day, without any clothing or habitation, was granted to the Burmese Captives, while they were employed in the most servile and laborious occupations. A great portion of them consisted of women and children, and as they had been brought to the Capital at an inclement season, and over the most difficult roads, some of them having been first taken up from Martaban to Chieng-Mai, and thence brought down, a great mortality had, of course, occurred amongst them. At least one half of them had died. It was impossible for the British Mission to remain indifferent to such inhumanity, and the Envoy made the strongest remonstrances against it, to the King, Wangna, Chakkri, Kalahom, Phra K'hlang and every other Officer whom he visited. As soon as he learnt that his representations had made an impression on the superior understanding of the King, and that the Ministers and Subordinate Officers only were opposing him, he adopted a higher tone and more strong and decisive language, pointing out the necessity which would exist for the British Government avenging the cruelties committed on its Burmese subjects, and threatening to quit the Country if they were not immediately sent back. This forced the Ministers at length to acquiesce but they did it with a very bad grace, sending at once to the premises occupied by the Mission, upwards of 500 of the Men, Women and Children whom the Phya or Govr. of Ch'hoomp'hon had brought away from Mergui. No arrangements were made for supplying them with food or clothing, and they had no shelter while the Thermometer was so low as 58°, and many of them were suffering from *Cholera Morbus* and Small

Pox. At length, the Court was forced into supplying provisions, and Junks for the conveyance of these poor creatures to Bangnarom, whence in the Month of March 547 Men, Women and Children were taken across the Country to Mergui, under charge of one of the Envoy's Interpreters. An Order was sent at the same time to the Governor of Ch'hoomp'hun to release and send to Mergui another party of 237 Men, which had been detained at the former place.

The Ministers repeatedly declared that no other prisoners remained, but in the Month of May, the Mission discovered and forced them to acknowledge a party of Peguers which Maha Yotha had brought away from the vicinity of Martaban, and several of which, from meeting with old acquaintances among the Pegu emigrants in Siam did not certainly experience so harsh a treatment as the Burmese Prisoners had done, although they were all equally anxious to escape from the state of Slavery in which they were kept. To affect the release of these persons the Mission had to go through the same vexatious discussions as on the former occasion, before the Siamese Court was prevailed upon, in the latter end of June, to forward in the same manner to Mergui, another party of 640 Men, Women and Children, under charge of another of the Envoy's Interpreters. The Mission subsequently effected the release of 8 more natives of Pegu, and of five Native Christians, whom a party of Siamese had seized five years ago on the Coast of Tavoy, and the latter persons were brought away on board the Mission Brig. Whatever therefore may be the final results of the late Mission to Siam, every Member of it will feel great and lasting satisfaction, that he was instrumental in rescuing upwards of 1400 of his fellow creatures from a most *intolerable Slavery*.

The Treaty, which the Mission had negotiated with the Siamese Ministers, provides in the first

instance for the maintenance of mutual friendship, and for the settlement of all questions or disputes likely to arise at any time, between the two nations respecting boundaries and refugees. It makes the following provisions for the future security of our trade and intercourse with the Malay States on the Peninsula of Malacca.

With respect to the History of Siam and of those Malay States we may here only observe, that if we refer to the Native Malay Annals themselves, we shall learn that Siam, in ancient times, had "all the regions under the wind" (the phrase familiarly employed by the Malays to denote their own countries) dependent on it, and had possessions as far as Johor at the extremity of the Malay Peninsula, before the arrival there of the first Malay Colony from Sumatra about the Year 1160, and further, that in the beginning of the 15th Century, during some part of the reign of Sultan Ala-Wa-eddou of Malacca, his Country was under the power of the Siamese. If we receive the accounts of the Early English Voyagers and travellers, we must admit, that most of the States on the Peninsula recognised, at different times, the authority of Siam, and were reported to be tributary to her, and if we adopt any reasoning from analogy, we shall find it difficult to suppose, that these petty Malay States could have been suffered to retain for so long a period as is imagined by some, an unrestrained Sovereign independence on the borders of so powerful a kingdom as Siam.

For the native accounts of the early Malay Establishments on the Peninsula of Malacca, we beg to refer to Dr. Leyden's Malay Annals, P. 9, 10, 73, 121, 135, 138, 314 and 319, and the Descriptions of Siam and Malacca in Valentyn's Great work P. 50, 2d. Part of Vol. 3d, and P. 316 to 320 of Vol. 5th, from which last Marsden has cited the passages in Page 326 *et seq*: of his last Edition of the History of Sumatra, and for the

Accounts of European travellers, we may refer to Floris in 1613, Commodore Beaulieu in 1621, Nieuhoff in 1662, and to Chaumont, Tachard, De Choisy, La Loubère, and Kempfer's Descriptions of Siam from 1685 to 1689, and Captain Walter* Hamilton's new account of the East Indies in 1744. The earliest authentic account of the Malay States which we have been able to trace in any European author, is contained in Ramusio's Collection of Voyages, printed at Venice in 1550—A Portuguese traveller, Barbessa, who wrote an account of his travels in 1516, and another Portuguese who wrote upon it "A Summary of the Eastern Kingdoms, Cities and People" describe Queda as being at that time under the recognised dominion and active control of Siam. One Siamese Viceroy ruled from Tenasserim to Malacca, and another, named Viceroy of Lungar (Ligor) from Pahang to the Siamese Capital. Some of the officers of the Penang Government have ventured to question the accuracy of Marsden, who describes Malacca as having been under the power of the Siamese in the beginning of the 15th Century, but Marsden has taken the fact from Valentyn, who quotes the native Histories, and who wrote his elaborate work after passing a long and laborious life among the people. Disputed claims of tributary or feudatory relations have perplexed the British Government in every part of India. Tippoo over Cochin, Coorg &c., the Peishwa over the Southern Jagheerdars and the Gaickwar, and Scindiah and Holkar over the Petty states west of the Jumna. The Supreme Government however never examined too narrowly into the rights of possession, or the Origin of such claims, but rather supported them until the issue of some war empowered it to extinguish the claims, or transfer them to itself with many advantages, no doubt, in favour of the Petty States.

*sic. ? Alexander.

During the revolutions of the Siamese Govern-

ment the Malay States have profited by its weakness to set up a transitory independence, but with the settlement of that Government, its influence and authority have always been restored, and the tributary token rigidly enforced. There is little chance now of the Supremacy of Siam being disputed. Her resources have been improved by a long interval of repose, and they have recently still more extension from the diminished power of her great enemy the Burmese.

The term "tributary" with its adjuncts "Vassal, Liege Lord" &c. appear to have been first introduced into India by the Portugueze, whose proceedings towards many of the Indian Princes clearly shew, that these expressions were meant by them to indicate "conquest, submission and protection." The token among the Indo Chinese nations of Vassalage to a superior state, is comprised in the transmission to it triennially of two small trees bearing flowers, one wrought in Gold and the other in Silver, termed by the Malays *Bouma Mas dan Perak* the whole expence of which does not exceed 1000 Spanish Dollars. The expence, although it is sometimes enhanced by the addition of a Sum of Money and rich Clothes, forms no object for consideration, as the return made by the superior State in presents is always of much greater amount. But the obligation which this token involves, is undefined and regulated only by the wants or caprice of the paramount state, in requisitions at any time, for troops, guns, boats, or provisions. The origin of the custom is rather ingeniously accounted for by the King of Queda, who declares that in early times, one of his ancestors happening to send a flower of Gold to the eldest Son of the King of Siam, a Child, to play with, the present was construed into a token of inferiority or homage, and the Custom thenceforth triennially exacted. But it is rather extraordinary, that the custom should prevail among the other Malay States, and that the Countries of Upper

Laos and Ava, as well as Cambodia, Siam and China, should be so well acquainted with it. The Chinese who travelled from the Kingdom of Siam to China in 1652, report according to Du Halde, that Mahang Kemarat was at that time tributary to Ava, and that it sent Ambassadors yearly to the King of Ava to carry this tribute which consisted of two small shrubs, one having its leaves and flowers of gold, and the other of silver.

Although the influence of Siam over the Malay States may originally have been the effect of conquest and the transmission of the *Bcon a Mas* submitted to as a means of purchasing exemption from threatened oppression, yet that influence has been recognised sometimes, as in the case of Queda in 1621 against the King of Acheen, and more recently of Calantan against the Chief of Tringano, by the weaker states as a means of securing Siamese protection against their more powerful neighbours. Siam however does not appear to have divested these States of the rights of Sovereignty, as with the exception of Patani, the inhabitants of what * are now a mixed race of Siamese and Malays, she has suffered their Governments, laws, customs and religion, widely different from her own, to subsist entire, and this is the view which the British Government has ever taken of the condition of the alliance between Siam and the Malayan States, considering the latter to possess so much of the rights of Government and Sovereignty, as to be capable of entering into Treaties, and of even ceding a portion of their territories. But though the British Government acting upon this principle, entered into an alliance with the King of Queda in the year 1786, and deemed his permission sufficient to enable it to form an establishment at Prince of Wales Island, still nothing is more clear and indisputable in the whole history of its intercourse with the Malay States, than a steady and invariable determination on the

* [? which]

part of the Supreme Government of India, not to be led into any embarrassing participation in the interests and concerns of either Siam, or any of the Malay States. Notwithstanding many applications from almost all the Malay States to the British Government, to afford them protection against Siam, or against each other by forming Settlements in their dominions our interference has been limited within the bounds of amicable counsel and mediation. Political connection with the Malay States has been deprecated, and relations with them have been considered desirable, so far only as may be requisite for promoting and preserving the trade of the Commercial posts established at Prince of Wales Island, Malacca nad Singapore. The great objection to the British Government encouraging these States to throw off their connexion with Siam, if indeed any measure directed to that end could be justifiable under the relations existing between that power and ourselves, is the impossibility of seeing how far such a proceeding may draw us on. Indeed the impracticability of inducing the haughty and arrogant Court of Siam to wave pretensions so intimately affecting its pride and consequence, as its claims of superiority over these Malay States, the weak and imbecile character and authority of most of the Malay Chiefs, and constant quarrels among themselves, the unsettled laws of succession in their Governments, which are a source of dispute on the death of almost every Prince, the exaggerated fears of the Malay inhabitants with respect to the Siamese, and the restless and meddling disposition of the latter, all conspire to render it highly probable, that interference on the part of the British Government would involve it in extensive and complicated political relations, bring in a rupture, sooner or later, with Siam, and ultimately lead us to Bangkok, and to a direct occupation of the whole Malay Peninsula. That the British Empire in Asia will ultimately extend over Siam is perhaps certain, but whether those who are connected

with our Establishments in the Straits of Malacca may not be urged by local views and feelings, to accelerate, instead of making every exertion to retard the growth of our power, is a subject worthy the consideration of Superior authorities. With every respect and deference also towards the present Governor of Penang, we may venture to submit, that he has brought to the consideration of our Indo-Chinese policy the comprehensive mind and extended views required for the Government of our immense territorial possessions in India. Our duty and policy for several years to come ought perhaps to be, to improve and secure what we have already acquired without making any change in the system, which looked to our insular possessions as factories or commercial posts only, designed not for the local increase of revenue or political importance, but for the purpose of introducing and extending the consumption of the manufactures of England and British India among the surrounding Native States.

It is not intended by the foregoing remarks to depreciate the character of the Honble. Company's Establishment at Penang, some of the Officers of which the writer of this account is proud of numbering among his most respected friends. The whole of the public Servants of Penang, Malacca, Singapore and Bencoolen have lately been incorporated into one Establishment to be styled "the Government of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore." But that the Honble. Company had no intention of changing the character of their possession in that quarter may be inferred from the fact of their having ordered the abolition of all Import and Export duties levied at those Settlements. None of them could before meet the expense of their maintenance, and the revenues of Penang, during her most prosperous days, fell short of her charges by at least £4,000 per annum. It is but natural that the Officers belonging to these Settlements in the Straits of Malacca, should be urged to effect the

same important changes there, as those which the Company's early Agents, according to Sir John Malcolm, brought about in India. "The desire of "promoting the Security and improving the prosperity "of their commercial Establishments first led them to "Political connexions. From that moment the Sub- "stance though not the form of their Government was "altered, and they were involved beyond the power of "retracting in all the complicated relations of a "Political State. The truth is, that from the day "on which the Company's troops marched one mile "from their factories, the increase of their territories "and armies became a principle of self preservation." The Servants of the Company had a great field open for the exercise of their talents in India, and in the early part of their History, the advancement of individuals to wealth and authority, depended, in a great degree, upon the advancement of the Government, which they served.

To return to the Malay States—Johor and Pahang have long broken off their connexion with Siam but Tringano is under the Siamese Governor of Singora, and Calantan under the Rajah of Ligor, through which Chiefs they respectively transmit to Siam the triennial token of submission.* The Claims of supremacy on the part of Siam over Tringano are founded on the fact of Tringano having been a portion of Johor, and the first modern Chief of it a Sultan of Johor, which State had before transmitted the *Boonga Mas* to Siam, and on the alleged circumstance of a Chief of Tringano having once appealed to Siam for protection against the *Bugis* who have established themselves on on some of the Islands at the extremity of the Malay Peninsula. In the year 1720 Captain Hamilton was at Siam when a Chief of Johor transmitted the *Boonga Mas* thither, and a Chief of Tringano in 1787, when resting a claim of personal homage set up by a

* **Note. In 1662 Nieuhoff describes Pahang as being subject to the King of Siam and as extending to Patani, that is, including Tringano. Hamilton, between 1708 and 1720 found Pahang a part of Tringano, and in 1724 Valentyn in a chart in his work describes one State, Pahang, from the frontiers of Johor to those of Patani.**

King of Siam, admitted that "from the beginning of time, through all generations the Kings of Johor sent complimentary messages and the Boonga Mas to the King of Siam."* Calantan was a dependency of Tringano, but threw off its yoke about 20 or 25 years ago upon some change of dynasty, and appealed to Siam also for protection.

* Note. See Captain Walter Hamilton's account in 1719 and 20 and Mr. Chapman's in 1778 of the Condition of the Sultan of Tringano from the attacks and threats of the Eugie and their Chief at Rhio.

The Mission touched at Tringano on its way to Bangkok, as well as on its return, and learnt that Siam is in regular communication with that State and Calantan, that a strong party in her interests exists in both of them, and that the Siamese Ministers place a high Value on the maintenance of this connexion. The Mission further found, that the Chiefs of both Tringano and Calantan have accepted Siamese Titles, and that, in fact, the inhabitants of both these States depend on the Siamese ports to the Northward for their principal supplies of grain.

The Envoy conceived, that the preservation of British trade and intercourse with Tringano and Calantan was the only ground upon which it could ever be the policy of the British Government to interfere in their favor, and he therefore persuaded the Siamese Ministers to enter into an engagement by the 12th Article of the Treaty, that the Siamese shall not obstruct or impede the trade or intercourse subsisting between British Subjects and the States of Tringano and Calantan.

The present state of Salengore is a recent establishment by a colony of Bugis from Rhio, and the Siamese advance no claims of Supremacy over it. The Government of Salengore however is unquiet. In 1770 it attacked Queda, in 1783 Malacca, in 1806 it took possession of Perak, and again in 1822 it drove out a party of Siamese, which had been established at Perak. This last measure was perhaps justifiable, as Salengore had a strong interest in preventing the approach to its

immediate vicinity of a conquering and formidable power like the Siamese. But the Chief of Salengore established a nephew at the Mouth of the Perak River to control the trade and Government of that State, and against this proceeding the Chief of Perak appealed to the Rajah of Ligor, and deputed last year a Mission to His Highness, consisting of some of the principal Nobles of Perak. The preparations, which the Rajah of Ligor then made, were designed for the purpose of driving out the Salengore party from Perak, and of attacking Salengore in retaliation for the conduct of its Chief to the Siamese at Perak, and the Treaty which Captain Burney concluded on the 31st July, with His Highness of Ligor, engaged the Rajah not to send any armament to Perak or Salengore upon condition that the Government of Prince of Wales Island would remove the Salengore party from Perak, and prevent Salengore from all future interference with that state.

These objects were then accomplished by the Penang Government under an engagement concluded with the Chief of Salengore, and a part of the 14th Article of the Treaty now negotiated with Siam secures on the same terms the safety of Salengore from Siamese encroachments.

At the time that the Siamese Government directed the King of Queda to subdue Perak, it was supposed that Siam was asserting its claims of supremacy over the latter State, on the ground of the connexion which had anciently subsisted between Perak and the native Governments of Malacca and Johor. The Mission discovered however, that some of the Subordinate Chiefs of Perak had privately invited the interference of the Siamese Governors of Ligor and Singora against the Misgovernment of the old Rajah of Perak and the usurping influence of their neighbour the Chief of Salengore. This intrigue, as well as the communications which had more recently passed between the reigning Chief of Perak and the Rajah of Ligor, con-

vinced the Siamese Ministers that Perak is really desirous of maintaining intimate relations with Siam. If however the Penang Government offer protection to Perak against Salengore, there is no doubt that the majority of the Perak Chiefs and particularly the reigning Rajah, will be happy to discontinue all further connexion with the Siamese. The return of the Siamese to Perak will again produce a quarrel between them and Salengore, the inevitable consequence of which will be to destroy altogether the trade and intercourse now subsisting between those States and Penang and Malacca. It is evidently therefore the interest of the British Government to maintain the future independence of Perak, for which the 14th Article of the Treaty with Siam stipulates, and to prevent the Siamese from coming in contact with Salengore. As there is no good overland route from the Siamese territories to Perak and Salengore, and as their principal communication has always been by water, the Penang Government from its situation will have no difficulty in seeing the provisions of the Treaty, with reference to those two States, fully respected and adhered to by the Siamese.

An agent was sent to Perak by the Penang Government subsequent to the return of the Mission from Siam, and the following observations have been submitted to the Supreme Government with respect to that Agent's proceedings. The engagement binding the Chief of Perak not to hold any intercourse with or receive Envoys from the Siamese, the issuing of proclamations against them, the removal of his Ministers and Officers, "for having joined the Siamese party," and appointment of others, the claims to succession of the *Rajah Muda*, or Heir apparent to the throne, finally and publicly annulled, "for having seconded the views of the Siamese," (an act the right and policy of which may be questioned, in as much as the Perak Monarchy is not elective and the Rajah Muda with his acknowledged many adherents will be only made more

troublesome than he was) the recommendation to the Rajah of Perak not to tax the Ryots, the plans for establishing a regular Mercantile Agent at Penang, and procuring School Masters from thence, the removal of His Highness's residence from his former abode to a Spot nearer Penang, and provision made by a supplementary engagement for the occasional residence with him of a British Officer, the Cession to the British Government by another Supplementary engagement of the territory of Pulo Dinding &ca. the whole directed or done by a British Officer, with a Guard of Sepoys, and with an expectation held out by him of a loan of money and Guns and Warlike Stores, all these acts will of course, irritate and excite the dissatisfaction of the Siamese, and be received by them as an infraction of the Treaty concluded at Bangkok. When also it is considered, that all these acts have been done with respect to Prince whose whole Annual Income is estimated at only "12000 Rs." may it not be said, that the ablest Opponent to the favorite plan of the Penang Government for taking the whole of the Malay Peninsula under its protection, could not have shown more clearly and decidedly, than what this Agent to Perak has done, the petty, complicated and unprofitable transactions, which such a plan will entail upon us, and the impossibility of seeing, until we have actually embarked in it, how far interference on our part with the Malay Peninsula States may draw us on?

On the subject of Queda the Mission experienced the greatest difficulties. The King of Queda who ceded Prince of Wales Island to the British Government was distinctly apprized that "with respect to protecting him at any time against the Siamese, The Governor General in Council had decided against any measures, that might involve the East India Company in military operations against any of the Eastern Princes, and that the countenance or influence of the Company could be employed for the security of

Queda so far only as it did not involve their honor, credit or troops." It was subsequently decided, after much investigation, that "there was little room to doubt the dependent nature of the relation subsisting between the States of Queda and Siam, and that whatever may have been the origin of the periodical tokens of submission given by the former, there appeared to be no ground for encouraging the King of Queda to renounce his vassalage to the State of Siam." The King of Queda who ceded Penang died leaving nine Sons, between whom disputes arose respecting their separate authority, and the division of their patrimonial property. Each aspired to power. The Uncle put aside the pretensions of the whole, and assumed the Government, but he found it a difficult task to control his numerous nephews. The eldest, the present King of Queda, went over to the neighbouring Siamese Governor of Singora, who conveyed him to Bangkok, where he received a Siamese title and an appointment from the King of Siam to the Government of Queda. The order, with which he returned from Siam, intimidated his uncle to resign in his favor about the year 1804. Some of his brothers opposed this arrangement by open force, and the conflicting authority of five or six brothers and an Uncle, all equally oppressive and independent, disturbed the Kingdom and produced constant intrigues between some of the brothers and the neighbouring Siamese Governors, who were invited to interfere in the affairs of Country more and more, until at length the King of Queda was driven from his throne, and his territory occupied by the Siamese under the Rajah of Ligor. The principal charge against the King of Queda was, that he maintained friendly correspondence with the Burmese. About the year 1811 he refuted the charge by sending up his Eldest Son and *Bindhara* to Bangkok, to do homage before the King of Siam, but when the charge was subsequently repeated by another brother he

appears to have taken no pains to disprove it. On the contrary he adopted some measures calculated to confirm it, by removing from his Capital and fortifying himself at a post nearer Penang, and by showing some remissness in the transmission of the *Boonga Mas* to Siam.

Before the arrival also of the Siamese in Queda, the King had alienated the minds of most of his principal Officers and Subjects. Contrary to the Stipulations of his Treaty with the British Government, he had imposed a heavy duty upon the exportation of grain from Queda to Penang, and by a system of monopolies and other means, little short of extortion, he had oppressed his own people, and put a stop to all commercial intercourse between Penang and the interior of the Malay Peninsula. For 3 or 4 years before 1821, His Highness was threatened by the Siamese, and in the beginning of that year, the Penang Government communicated to him authentic information, which it had received from Bangkok, of a Siamese armament being under preparation there, destined to attack Queda. His Highness, however, appears to have made no counter preparations at his Capital for preventing or resisting the approach of the Siamese; and the moment he heard of their arrival at Queda, he fled to Penang from his fortified post at Pulo Tiga. On the 12th November 1821, a small party only of Siamese took possession of Queda, killing the *Laxamana Tumongong* and many of the Malays, and making prisoners of the *Bindahara* and afterwards of *Tuanku Yacoob* the King of Queda's second Son, with several of His Highness's Sisters, Nephews and Women. At this time, the main body of the Siamese had not come up, and every respectable Malay of Queda now speaks with shame of the ignoble flight of the King, and attributes the loss of his throne to his own previous misconduct.

Just as the King had thus retreated from Queda,

Mr. Crawfurd proceeded to Bangkok, where he endeavoured, without success, to reconcile the Court of Siam to His Highness. Upon the failure of this negotiation, His Highness, most imprudently, opened a secret correspondence with the Government of Ava, which immediately met his appeal for succour, and deputed some Envoys from Tavoy to Penang in order to ascertain the real State of affairs. The declaration of War published by the British Government against Ava, necessitated the return of these Envoys to Tavoy with all expedition; but the fact of this negotiation was made known to the Siamese, and from that moment, the King of Queda lost every well wisher he ever possessed at Bangkok, where this procedure on his part tended to confirm every previous charge that had been made against him, of carrying on a treasonable correspondence with the Burmese, and rendered the whole Siamese Court irreconcileably inimical to him.

Since the time when the King of Queda sought an asylum at Penang, many of his subjects and partisans have been most active in sowing suspicion and distrust between the Penang Government and the Rajah of Ligor. Some of the very persons who alarmed the Government of Penang with reports of the hostile designs and equipments of the Rajah of Ligor in 1822, and again last year, are believed to have taken to His Highness similar reports against the Penang Government. It was impossible for any confidence or good understanding to subsist between our Government and the Rajah of Ligor, as long as the King of Queda remained on such terms at Penang, and with reference particularly to the relations between the Siamese and the British Government being undefined and unsettled, it was deemed advisable to instruct the late Mission to make one more effort to persuade the Siamese to retire from Queda and from the vicinity of Penang, and to restore the King of Queda to his territory.

Upon the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, it found that the Siamese Court was deriving revenue of 30,000 Dollars Per annum from the direct occupation of Queda and that the King of Queda had not a single friend at Bangkok, whilst some of his own subjects, and among others one of his own brothers, now residing at Queda, were petitioning the King of Siam against the restoration of his Highness. The Envoy was furnished with no equivalent to offer to the Siamese to induce them to retire from Queda, and he early ascertained the correctness of the following observation made by the Governor General in Council to the Penang Government. "We do not "very clearly perceive how the Court of Siam or the "Rajah of Ligor will ever be persuaded to forego "the profit, which it seems they derive from the "direct occupation of Queda, unless we are persuaded "to tender Tavoy or Mergui as an inducement." But one part of the Envoy's instructions directed him to take special care, not to hold out any distinct expectation of our ceding to the Siamese any portion of our acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim, and Martaban was the only place which the Siamese Court seemed to value, or desire to possess, and for which, as the Envoy reported from Bangkok, it would perhaps have been willing to exchange Queda. The Envoy however used every argument and endeavour in his power to persuade the Court of Siam to meet the wishes of the Penang Government respecting Queda. But he found the object unattainable by any means short of actual intimidation, by which it is possible that he might have gained this, but he would have infallibly lost every other object of his Mission. The mere measure of carrying the King of Queda back to his capital would not be sufficient. A Single Company of our Sepoys might have kept the Siamese from coming there, and a single Company might even now replace His Highness in his Capital. But to reinstate his Highness contrary to the wishes

of the Siamese, as between them no good understanding can now ever exist, would impose on the British Government the necessity of supporting His Highness there, and in fact, (as he is now without a single minister or respectable Chief) of undertaking the direct management of the country which as Mr. Crawfurd has observed, is thinly populated, covered for the most part with forest, and destitute of all those commodities that give some commercial consequence to the other States of the Peninsula, the principal portion of the 30,000 Dollars realized by the Siamese being derived from the very heavy Export duty upon grain, so unjustifiably imposed by the King of Queda. Such a measure therefore would only draw the British Government into the very course of policy which it has studiously avoided in all its intercourse with the Malay States on the Peninsula of Malacca. The Mission saw at Bangkok that to replace the King of Queda in his territory under any arrangement which it would not be to the interest of the Siamese to keep, would be only sowing the seeds of future dissension, and as the primary object of that Mission was entirely conciliatory, the Envoy conceived himself not only justified in giving, but even called upon to afford to the Siamese Court, some unequivocal proof of the forbearance and moderation of the British Government.

The question respecting the restoration of the King of Queda was therefore conceded, and in return, the Siamese Government engaged to release His Highness's family and personal servants, who were in captivity at Ligor, to afford good treatment to the inhabitants of Queda; to abolish the high duty levied upon the exportation of grain from Queda to Penang, and the system of farming out the exclusive privilege of navigating the different rivers in Queda, by which all intercourse with the interior of the Malay Peninsula had been long obstructed, and finally, to permit a free and unrestrained trade and intercourse

between the British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca and every contiguous Siamese province. As the Export duty on grain at Queda forms the chief source of profit to the Siamese, their engaging to relinquish this gain proves the disposition of the Siamese Court to make as large a sacrifice as it can, towards conciliating the British Government rather than submit to replace the King of Queda. But it must be owned that the Envoy experienced the utmost difficulty in prevailing on the Siamese Ministers to forego so large a portion of the profit which they derive from the direct occupation of Queda.

The Siamese Ministers, however, dwelt much on the inconvenience of the King of Queda residing at Penang, in the immediate vicinity of Queda, and required in return a pledge that His Highness should be removed to some other territory, and this pledge, referring to the possibility of the King of Queda being unwilling to remove, was given with a condition, that if it should not be fulfilled the Siamese at Queda should be at liberty to continue the Export duty upon grain. It was engaged also, that the British Government should not permit the King of Queda or his followers, as long, of course, as they continued to live under our protection and at our expence, to molest the Siamese.

Although previous to the departure of the Mission for Siam the Penang Government admitted the necessity of a final decision one way or other, and acknowledged that no confidence or cordiality can subsist between it and its Siamese neighbours so long as the King of Queda remains in his present situation, still that authority now objects to insist upon His Highness accepting our protection and stipend at Malacca, or in any other part of our territory, where his presence may not disturb our peace and tranquillity. It is obviously good policy for the British Government to fulfil as implicitly as possible, all the expectations held out by its Agent at Bangkok, and not to suffer the Court of

Siam to entertain the smallest doubt of our good faith and peaceable intentions, or of our professions of maintaining the most friendly relations with the Siamese. With the precedent furnished by Kingberring and the Mug refugees, who were allowed to reside on the frontiers of Ava, is there not every reason for believing, that in the same manner, if the King of Queda and his followers remain in the immediate vicinity of Queda, their natural passions and resentments will be kept alive, and will only serve to provoke the offended pride and troublesome jealousy of the Siamese until these conflicting causes involve the British Government in hostilities? But on this point it is necessary only for the Supreme Government to communicate a decided expression of its sentiments to the Penang Government and the Ex-King of Queda. Let his Highness receive every consideration due to his misfortunes, and the most liberal provision and protection, but couple with these, as we have a right to do, such terms only as may secure our own peace and tranquillity.

The Envoy recorded in his Journal on the 26th of May an opinion, that if he had broken up the conference which he held that night with the Siamese Ministers, and had prepared to quit the country, they would have yielded the point, rather than have permitted him to depart. Without reflecting that this Journal was only a record of his daily impressions, that opinion has since been cited against the Envoy. It is impossible, with such an ignorant and conceited Court as that of Siam, to predict with any degree of certainty what would be its proceedings in any particular contingency, but there is no doubt that subsequent experience induced the Envoy to question the accuracy of his opinion, and to perceive that the whole of his instructions from the Supreme Government as well as the circumstance of two English Merchants residing at Bangkok with considerable

property, which he could not remove with him, would have rendered it impossible for him to have put his opinion to the proof without incurring a very awful responsibility and heavy censure, had the issue been contrary to his expectations. Besides, it was before well observed by the Supreme Government to one of its high diplomatic Agents, "it is inconsistent with unalterable principles to menace a measure, of which considerations either of expediency or of justice, would preclude the adoption." The Envoy could have wished to have awaited the result of a reference which he made to Bengal from Bangkok, but he found the delay would have been creative of some inconvenience and much expense to the public, and there was a necessity for him not to quit Siam without coming to some understanding with the Court. This subject cost the Envoy great personal anxiety and inquietude, for he well knew, as the event proved, that any arrangement short of the full restoration of the King of Queda would dissatisfy the Penang Government, and cut off all hopes of further employment for himself under that Government.

The British Government has surely nothing to fear from the Siamese: and all it can reasonably require from them is some share for its subjects in the really valuable and extensive commerce of Siam. Every Member of the late Mission is convinced, that the present Siamese Government has nothing farther from its wish or intention than to come into collision with us, and that its existing sentiments, with a little moderation, forbearance and management on our part, may be improved into such benefits and advantages in favor of our Merchants and Trade as those only, who have visited Bangkok, can duly appreciate. But the Supreme Government of British India must rigidly exercise over subordinate authorities the Political control vested in it by the British Legislature.

The Rajah of Ligor in his proceedings against Queda and Salengore, was acting under the immediate orders of the Court of Siam. He has no independent authority; he is an officer subject to and implicitly bound by the instructions of that Court. But provision having now been made by Treaty for defining the relations between the British and Siamese Nations, and for the settlement of all questions or disputes that may be likely to arise respecting boundaries, refugees, and Military or Naval equipments, some hopes may be entertained that the Penang Government will not, in future, find this Chief so restless and troublesome a neighbour as he has hitherto been considered. He has already made application to be furnished with a Copy of the Customs Duties and port regulations in force at Prince of Wales Island, with an intention of establishing similar rates and rules in Queda, on the fair principles of reciprocity, and his Son, the Governor of Queda, has just permitted an Agent from the Penang Government to visit some of the principal rivers in Queda, and satisfy that Government of the groundlessness of the reports, which Malays had again circulated at Penang, of extensive warlike preparations going on in those rivers. With respect however to the Siamese ever attacking Penang, the Mission entirely agrees with Mr. Crawfurd, that "there is just as much chance of their marching an army to Calcutta." None but those who have never seen this people, can suppose that their military means are more efficient now than they were in 1688, when a few Frenchmen defended Mergui against 12,000 Siamese during several weeks. Yet as an example of the truly absurd tales brought by Malays to Penang and credited there, concerning the hostile preparations and intentions of the Rajah of Ligore, in 1825, we beg to refer to the Paper of Intelligence collected in June that year, by the Malay Translator to the Penang Government, from a Malay named Che Etam, who was

employed as a secret agent or Spy, and who appears to have discovered what kind of tales would best ensure him a good reward.

The above arrangements, it is hoped, will tend to secure every practicable degree of freedom and facility to our trade in Lower Siam. It now remains to detail the measures which have been adopted for improving our commercial relations with Upper Siam.

Upon the accession to the throne of the present King of Siam, he made a declaration that he was determined not to be a *King Merchant*, and not to maintain any Monopolies, but to permit a general free trade. The exclusive Sale of Stick-lac, Sapan Wood, Aquila Wood, Ivory, Gamboge and Pepper which the late King of Siam monopolized, was abolished, and the collection of the duties upon those articles was farmed out. The trade in those articles was made free; that is, only when his Majesty has no supply of them for Sale. Unfortunately, the King receives a great portion of his revenues in kind. The Siamese troops, when not otherwise engaged, are employed in Cultivation, and in cutting Timber and Sapan Wood for His Majesty. The people of Laos pay their tribute in Stick-lac, Ivory, Benzoin and other articles. The inhabitants on its frontiers send down cotton and rafts of Teak Timber. The inhabitants of the Siamese portion of Cambodia, send Gamboge, Aquila Wood, Pepper and Cardamons. The Chinese, who farm the collection of the duty upon Sugar, makes his payments in that article. To get rid of all this produce, His Majesty is obliged to become a Merchant, and his Officers, of course, try to sell it for him on the highest possible terms. All these Officers also are allowed to engage in commerce.

Although the system of monopolies was in some measure reduced by the present King of Siam, yet the trade of British Subjects in Siam, had to contend

against two very great evils. The claims of pre-emption exercised by the officers of the Siamese Government, and an arbitrary and uncertain mode of levying the duties and port charges. The Phra Khlang and his Petty Officers always endeavoured to prevent the inhabitants of Bangkok from making any purchases, until they themselves had selected whatever articles they pleased, and for which they would not settle at once a fair price, but would keep the foreign Merchant waiting day after day for a month or six weeks, until they either forced him to submit to their terms, or to lose the chance of selling his Cargo to others to any advantage. No inhabitant of Bangkok dared make any other offer for what the Phra Khlang and his Officers desired to possess, nor could he sell any article to the foreign merchant without the previous permission of the Phra Khlang, which was never given so long as that Minister or the King's Merchant had any thing to dispose of. The foreign merchant could not go to the Market unless clandestinely and at the risk of losing his property and bringing down most severe punishment on the Siamese trader. He was, in fact, completely in the power of the Phra Khlang. Next to the Phra Khlang and his deputy, Phya Phiphut, which officer in the time of Kempfer was remarkable for "pinching strangers," the principal instruments by which foreign trade was conducted on the above mischievous principles, were Luang Këo Ayat or Pomat, a natural brother of the Phra Khlang, Phya Chula the King's merchant, and Khun Radsithi his son. The two last have acquired great ascendancy over the mind of the Phra Khlang, and they are consulted by him on all occasions. The father professes to be a native of Persia, but is evidently a native of the Coast of Coromandel. It was his special duty to settle a price for all articles required by the King from the the European Merchant, a duty he generally took several weeks to execute, offering the merchant, in the first instance, about 1/20th of the value of his goods.

His son is the King's mercantile clerk, and accountant to the Phra Khlang, an office in which his shrewdness, cunning and quickness, render him extremely necessary and acceptable to the Phra Khlang.

The endeavours of the Envoy were, of course strenuously directed towards correcting such a mischievous system as is above described, and fairly opening the market to the English merchant, to which end he persuaded the Ministers to insert in the Treaty negotiated with them, a clause in article 6th declaring that "British merchants and the inhabitants of "the country shall be allowed to buy and sell with-"out the intervention of other persons;" a Stipulation which is repeated in Article 1st of the Commercial Agreement, together with the words "with freedom "and facility," and that no import, export or other "duty shall be levied upon the buyers or sellers from "or to English Subjects."

On the arrival of the Mission at Bangkok, it found that the trade of British subjects was charged a general Import Duty of Eight Per Cent, heavy export duties varying from 20 to 50 Per Cent, with a large sum of Port and Anchorage charges, sometimes styled measurement duty. The arrangement appears from the authority of Hamilton to have originated in some measure with ourselves in the Year 1684. That author relates that the Siamese Envoys sent to France visited London and there concluded a commercial Treaty with our Nation. As this treaty was negotiated by King Charles the Second's Ministers, no notice or Copy of it appears to exist among the records of the India Company. It would, however, be satisfactory to examine a copy of it, not only to learn the nature of its provisions but to ascertain what authority the Siamese Envoys possessed to execute such an Instrument. Judging from such of the names of the Ambassadors whom the King of Siam formerly deputed to Europe as can now be traced, we should believe them to

have been men of subordinate rank, and the practice and habits of the Siamese Court must indeed have experienced very great change, if to such Men or to any Siamese Agents powers could be given to enter into Treaties of Alliance. No Envoy who might now be deputed by the Siamese Monarch would dare to enter into any engagements, or could perform any act which his Master would consider it in any degree obligatory to ratify or confirm. Captain Hamilton however declares that in 1718, a Mr. Collett, Governor of Fort St. George, sent an Agent to Siam to annul the Treaty of London, and to make a new one, detrimental to all subjects except those employed by that Governor. The revised Treaty stipulated, Hamilton states, that all British subjects that had not Collett's letter should be obliged to pay 8 per Cent new Customs and measurage for their Ship, which came to about £500 for a Ship of 800 tons, to sell their cargoes to whom they pleased, but the money to be paid into the King's cash that he might deliver goods for it, at his own prices, whether proper for their homeward markets or no. This account shows at least, the fidelity with which the Siamese can maintain the provisions of a treaty that may lie in their own favour, for the vexatious system and heavy rate of duties of which British Merchants have complained at Bangkok are no more than what Mr. Collett appears to have introduced in 1718. The European Merchant however generally succeeded in evading the payment of a large portion, nay a moiety of the Import duties. The export duties were more strictly exacted and particularly on the principal commodity, Sugar, exported in Ships. But the measurement duty which was said to include certain fees to the Master Attendant and Officers of the Phra Khlang, was regulated by no fixed rule. The charges, in fact, were made by guess under the direction of Radsithi, and no statement of particulars was ever given to the English Merchant, who was made to pay the total communicated by Radsithi. Upon the death

of the late King, an increased charge was made on account of the Wangna and his Officers, who were then appointed. A new fee of 28½ ticals, and sometimes 32½ ticals, was demanded for a pass for every cargo Junk, that the European Merchant might hire, and the Governor of Paknam had lately increased his fee from 80 to 124 ticals, without declaring by whose authority or for what reason such increase was made. The Original Siamese of the document furnished to Mr. Crawfurd was shewn not to mean an engagement on the part of the Siamese Government not to increase the existing duties but a prohibition only to its officers against committing execution or extortion. It became therefore the first object of the Mission to ascertain the precise rate of this measurement duty, and the particulars of the fees and other charges included under the head of anchorage dues. After some discussion, the Phra Khlang drew out himself and delivered to the Envoy a list of the Port and anchorage duties levied upon the Ship Hunter, which happened then to be at Bangkok. A more absurd attempt to give a colour to imposition was perhaps never made than what this official account exhibited. In truth, it confirmed all the previous suspicions of the Mission, that a small portion only of the Charges was paid into the King's Treasury, and that the rest was embezzled by the Phra Khlang and his Department. The remedy for these arbitrary and irregular imposts was to persuade the Siamese Ministers to establish, in lieu of all others, one simple impost in the form of a duty upon Tonnage or measurement, a mode of proceeding which is conformable with the established usage of the Indo-Chinese nations. It was seen that the Siamese would not credit any Registers or Papers of a Ship denoting her Tonnage, and the Envoy considered it prudent not to propose too great innovations at once, but to let them continue their own system of measuring the Breadth only of a vessel. Although

a vessel's capacity to carry cargo does not depend entirely on her length or breadth, it was believed that any trifling inequality which might arise in practice from the adoption of this principle, would be much more than compensated by the exemption from vexatious interference, which it would secure, and at all events that such an arrangement would enable British Subjects to ascertain with some exactness, what trade could be carried on advantageously with Siam. The Mission was encouraged to hope that the King of Siam would favor the arrangement, as he had, when Prince Krom Chet, expressed his approbation of this mode of making one charge for the Vessel and her Cargo, as practised in China. It was seen, however, that the plan must be proposed under a considerable reduction of the existing duties, not only that it might become a benefit to our Merchants, who complained of the exorbitance of the existing charges, but that it might afford some counterbalance against the probable mal-practices of the Phra Khlang's Department, which would attempt to add, in some way or other to the amount stipulated however high might be the rate. The following is a list of the amount of Import and Export duties and charges actually paid by several Vessels which have visited Bangkok during the last 4 or 5 years.

Brig Phoenix of 232 Tons and 4 Siamese fathoms				
		in Breadth Tes.		11243
Schooner Mariana	126 Do.	3½ Do.	Do.	6913
Brig Shannon	200 Do.	3½ Do.	Do.	8821
Ship Caroline	450 Do.	4½ Do.	Do.	10157
Do. 2d time	...	...	...	12457
American Brig Siren	175 Do.	3½ Do.	Do.	4340
,, Ship Liverpool Packet	400 Do.	4½ Do.	Do.	11164
Ship Hunter	235 Do.	4 Do.	Do.	8688.1.

The loss on the presents made to the King and Officers of Siam is included in the account of Charges of only the two first of the abovementioned vessels. The American vessels with the exception of a few fire arms,

visited Bangkok in ballast, none of the Ships imported or exported more than half a cargo. The duties upon complete Cargoes would have nearly doubled the Sums quoted above, as having been actually paid by those vessels.

In addition to the *data* furnished by the foregoing list the Mission ascertained, that the following amount of Port Charges and duties was actually paid by country Ships in China in 1821.

Ships of 513 Tons Spanish Dollars 6406-57 or Tics. 10410
Ditto 412 Do. Do. 4775-50 or Do. 7785
Brig of 168 Do. Do. 3500 or Ditto 5688

and that the imposts upon our trade at Rangoon in 1820 were as follows:—

A general Import duty of 12 Per Cent.
An Export Duty on Timber of 1 Ditto
On all other Articles 5 Per Cent.
Port Anchorage and other charges 1512-50 Ticals, of 25 Per Cent Silver.

The Envoy proposed therefore a consolidated duty of 1500 Ticals, for each Siamese fathom in breadth of a vessel, and after much discussion with the Phra Khlang and other Officers, the King of Siam was pleased to order the ministers to accept this proposition with respect to vessels visiting Bangkok in ballast, and to fix 1700 Ticals per fathom for those arriving with an Import Cargo. The Envoy found it necessary however, to insist upon a clause being introduced into the Treaty engaging, that "no Import, Export or other duty shall be levied upon the buyers or sellers from or to English Subjects."

The Charge for Pilotage in Siam is trifling: 24 Ticals for a Ship and 16 for a Brig and with respect to the practice of making presents to the Siamese Officers, a practice which tended to conciliate them, but the observance of which was, in some degree, optional, the Mission found, that if the presents made by an English Trader consisted of Muskets, Cloths or other Articles, the Market prices of which

were well known, he had a chance of receiving from the King and Phra Khlang a fair return for them, but if they consisted of watches, clocks or expensive toys, a return of one quarter of their value only was made. The presents were generally referred to Phya Chula and his Son Radsithi to be appraised, and this duty they performed so unfairly, as to induce the Phra Khlang himself sometimes to double the price fixed by them. There was a convenience however in this system of presents, a convenience which our merchants may perhaps still enjoy at Bangkok. Whenever a European merchant possessed some commodity for which he could find no sale, and to re-export which might not be desirable, he tendered it as a present to the King, Wangna or Phra Khlang, from whom he was certain of receiving some return that would at least prevent the merchant from suffering a total loss.

By entering into a calculation of the Amount that vessels of the breadth cited in the above list will now have to pay, and comparing it with the several sums they before actually paid, it will be seen, that with one exception (the loss on the presents made by the Commander of which vessel is not known) the new arrangement possesses the advantage, not only of fixing and regulating, but of reducing the rate of impost.

			Ticals.	
Phoenix paid	11245	would now have to pay	6800	at 1700 Per fathom
Marianna	Do. 6913	Do. Do.	5950	@ Ditto.
Shannon exclusive of presents	8826	Do.	5950	@ Ditto.
Caroline 1st time	Do. 10157	Do. Do.	7650	@ Ditto.
Caroline 2nd time	Do. 12457	Do. Do.	7650	@ Ditto.
Siren (Ditto) - - - - -	4340	Do. Do.	5250	@ 1500 Per fathom
Liverpool Packet	Do. 11164	Do. Do.	6750	@ Ditto.
Hunter (Ditto) - - - -	8688	Do. Do.	6800	@ 1700 Per fathom

The greatest reduction, it appears, will take place in the large class of vessels, but against them another expence and disadvantage must be set down. The bar at the mouth of the Menam obliges them to communicate with Bangkok, for the most part, by means of Junks, the usual hire of which is about 24 Ticals Per 100 Piculs.

The Siamese Government have no idea of what is called "a free and unrestricted trade," and an article of a treaty with these words only, and without arranging and fixing the Minutest details of Port regulations and rates of duties and charges, would have been a dead letter. The Ministers also were so immediately interested in their system of conducting foreign trade, that any argument as to a less restricted trade proving a mutual benefit to both nations, would have been entirely lost upon them.

Independent of the jealousy and mistrust which the Siamese entertain towards Europeans, the Siamese Officers have discovered from Messrs. Hunter and Malloch, who have resided at Bangkok for nearly two years, that if European merchants are allowed to remain in Siam they will acquire too great an insight into Siamese Mal-practices, and save other foreign merchants that may visit Bangkok, from extortion and imposition. The Siamese negotiators took great care in drafting the 7th Article of the treaty, to reserve to themselves the right and power of refusing the privilege of residence in Siam to British subjects.

The Mission had great difficulty, before it persuaded the Siamese Ministers to include Surat Merchants and the Asiatic subjects of the British Government, in the benefits conceded to commerce by the treaty. Nothing can be more iniquitous than the conduct of the Siamese towards the Surat Vessels. The Phra Khlang and his Officers fix the price of every article of merchandize brought by those vessels, and take and distribute among themselves, whatever

portion of the Cargo they please for the purpose of retailing the same afterwards at a profit to themselves, in addition to the usual Port charges and Import and Export duties.

The trade of native Junks between Siam and Penang and Singapore is conducted by private Chinese Merchants at Bangkok; and it is one to which the Court of Siam is as yet indifferent, as a proof of which, we may state that during the whole of the negotiations of the late Mission, no attempt was ever made to obtain any reciprocal advantage for that trade, or to secure a pledge even that the present very moderate duties and Anchorage Charges levied upon it at our ports should be continued. Indeed, in the midst of the Envoy's negotiations the Siamese ministers received intelligence before him of the Penang Government having on the 1st of January 1826 replaced at that Settlement all the Import Duties on the Produce of Siam, the collection of which duties a former Government had suspended, for the purpose of encouraging the trade with Siam. These duties, however have again been remitted by orders from the Honble. the Court of Directors. This indifference on the part of the Court of Siam, an indifference under which the trade has increased and prospered, has begun to change and during the last two years many new duties have been imposed upon the Chinese Junks trading between Bangkok and the Straits of Malacca.* So much have these additional duties been increasing, that the Chinese traders before the departure of the Mission from Bangkok, petitioned the Court to place their commerce upon a fixed and more moderate system of duties, in the same advantageous manner as the English had secured by treaty. There is however no security for the continuance of the trade with Siam by

* Note.

The following is a list of the duties and Charges now levied at Bangkok upon a Junk of 4 Siamese fathoms in breadth trading with the Port of Canton and our Settlements in the Straits of Malacca.

Presents	400
Measurement Duty .	120
Port Clearance . .	400
Phya of Paknam's fee .	6
Oil for Do. . . .	6
Additional measurement duty of 1 Tical for every thumb's	

breadth that may be in the Junks measurement. There are 12 thumb's breadths in a span, 2 spans to a Cubit and 4 cubits to a Siamese fathom.
384 Kha Sinla or Charge to meet the Expence of the Stones used in fortifying the Mouth of the Menam 120
Total Ticals 1536

native Junks, and at any rate it must not be forgotten, that whilst our ships can navigate at all seasons, those vessels make but one voyage during the year. Messrs. Hunter and Malloch have lately been withdrawn from Bangkok by the Firm with they are connected, and which has at the same time withdrawn its Agents from Penang and other places. But those gentlemen are decidedly of opinion, that much benefit may be derived from the trade of Siam by making occasional visits at Bangkok, and that such a course is advantageous no proof can be more striking than that afforded by the Surat traders, who notwithstanding all the exactions and vexations of the present system, still send a vessel annually to Siam. The Mission witnessed the distress and extortion experienced by the Nakhoda of a Surat vessel in December 1825, and was much surprised indeed to find him go again last year, to pass through the same sufferings. Merchants will of course judge for themselves as to the best mode of trading with Siam, and the provisions of the present treaty will at least supply them with better *data* than they have hitherto possessed, for estimating the probable amount of imposts to be levied at Bangkok upon their consignments. That the present treaty will at once change a system which has existed for centuries no one can presume to hope. Most probably, wherever the European merchant interferes with the speculations of the Phra Khlang and his Officers who are unhappily all traders, their influence will still be secretly and powerfully employed against him. But as the present Treaty was negotiated on terms of equality by the representations of the two nations, as it was not dictated to the Siamese, as it was discussed and originally written in their own tongue, and above all, as it is the manifest interest and advantage of Siam to keep it, there are many grounds for hoping that its provisions

will be generally respected and maintained by that [State]. Whilst discussing the several articles of the Treaty repeated attempts were made to inscribe the different obligations in a more compressed form, to declare at once that " neither the Siamese nor the English shall intrude " &c. But the Siamese Ministers objected decidedly to such a construction of the sentences, stating that it would be contrary to the Siamese Customs, and that it could not possibly render the meaning of each article so clear and precise, as it would be by putting down separately what each party engaged. It was also indispensable that the version of the Treaty into the English language should be made as literal as possible, because it was well known that the translation would undergo much examination at Bangkok, and any omission or reduction of the sentences in the original, which is a language verbose and full of repetitions, would have been imputed by that jealous Court to some evil intention that would have tended to destroy the whole value of the Treaty. Some of the Mission had acquired a tolerable knowledge of the Siamese language, and had procured Dictionaries and Grammars of it from those Native Christians who understand Latin. We beg to add the following explanations respecting some of the stipulations of the Treaty. Captain Hiram Cox's remark with respect to the Burmese is equally applicable to the Siamese. " It " is a farce to talk of Treaties with this people in the " present state of their information for their ignorance " of their real interests is only to be equalled by their " pride and presumption, and unless I can open their " eyes to their own interests in the first instance, and " impress them with a respectful awe of the English " power in the Second, my remaining here (Capital " of Ava) will only expose the British Character to " degradation, and subject my employers to unnecessary expense."

The late war with Ava and the extensive scale in which it was conducted did certainly excite in the

minds of the Siamese Ministers a very high idea of the magnitude of our resources, and impress them with a respect, which they had never before felt for the character of the British Government. The numerous discussions also, which those Ministers had with the late Mission, respecting the King of Queda and the petty States on the Peninsula of Malacca, satisfied them, that their own interests were concerned in offering some concessions to the British Government, in order to draw from it in return, a pledge of its moderation and forbearance, and an assurance of its future peaceable intentions. But should circumstances at any time impose upon us the necessity of resenting any violation on the part of the Siamese Government of the articles of this treaty, there would not be the smallest necessity for undertaking any extensive or expensive Military preparations. Two or three small Cruizers, as pointed out by Mr. Crawfurd, stationed at the Sichang Islands, which possess a convenient harbour in sight of the Mouth of the Menam River, could blockade that River, intercept the whole foreign commerce of the country, and enable us, in a very few months, to dictate our own terms to the Court of Siam. This end might be even more expeditiously attained, were the Commanders of the Cruizers to send up a communication to Bangkok, stating their intentions of proceeding to attack the City. The Siamese Government and people are so well aware of the inadequacy of their forts to prevent the execution of such a threat, that a very few hours would bring an answer from them, offering satisfaction for all our demands. In the infancy of the British power in India, one or two vessels from Madras appear to have been capable of intimidating the King of Siam into conditions.

The King of Siam's titles are not more absurd than those of His Majesty of Persia "whose saddle is the Moon and whose stirrup is the new Moon," as recited in the preamble to Sir John Malcolm's Treaty with that Monarch. Very few of the Siamese them-

selves comprehend the meaning of the bald titles of the King and Wangna, but every enquiry was made of the most intelligent officers of the Court, according to whose explanation the phrases at the head of the Treaty were rendered into English.

The first part of the 1st Article of the Treaty is not more particular than some of the old Treaties between England and Spain and Portugal. To the latter part an objection may be made, that it does not specify the Countries to be considered subject to the Siamese, but the difference of opinion between the Envoy and the Siamese negotiators, respecting the subjection of the Malay States of [? to] Siam led to such terms being here used, as might prevent that question from being decided either way.

The 2nd. Article of the Treaty was believed to be intended by the Siamese Negotiators as a security against the Government of Prince of Wales Island attacking the Rajah of Ligor at Queda, and the concluding clause, which would not have been necessary with any state acquainted with the principles of international law was added for the purpose of preventing the occurrence of another such cause of offence, as His Highness's equipments had given to that Government in 1825.

The 3rd. Article of the Treaty will, it is hoped, sufficiently provide for the settlement of any disputes which may arise respecting the boundaries of our late conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim. But the great extent of uninhabited mountain and forest between that territory and the Siamese dominions, must preclude all chance of such disputes for many years.

The 4th. Article of the Treaty is decidedly in our favor, as more Siamese Subjects are likely to fly to us, than British Subjects to seek protection in Siam. The Siamese Laws make little or no difference between Civil Offenders and Criminals, and an

article, engaging the mutual restitution of criminals, would only have led to perplexing applications for any slave that might have escaped into our territories, or for any other person who happened to have offended a Siamese Chief before joining us.

The Siamese Negotiators could not be persuaded to make their part of the engagement in the 5th Article of the Treaty, nor the 9th Article, more clear and definite, by specifying at once the particular ports which they would not allow British Vessels to visit. It was evident that the Siamese Government desired to reserve to itself the power of preventing British vessels from entering Chantaboon and other ports, which they have not been accustomed to visit, and indeed, it appears to be the object and policy of Siam, in the same manner as with many other States, to make the Capital an entrepot for the whole commerce of the country, and to discourage foreign vessels from proceeding to the principal ports, or direct to the places of growth, for their cargoes. The Siamese Law of Debtor and Creditor gives the latter a right to go himself and seize the former and imprison him or any of his family, until the debt be discharged. If however, the Creditor, when employed in apprehending the debtor, strike him or any of his family, the debt is immediately cancelled. Hitherto, whenever an English trader complained to the Phra Khlang against any person in his debt, he was asked why he had trusted the party, and told to go himself and imprison him. The Mission saw an instance of Messrs. Hunter and Malloch detaining the person of a Prince for debt. This system was, of course, liable to many objections, and particularly as an attempt to seize a debtor might often be the cause of a serious affray between the foreign trader and the inhabitants of Bangkok. The rules detailed in the 6th Article of the Treaty were therefore substituted. The concluding expression, "it will be the merchants own fault," refers to the circumstance of foreign traders demanding satisfaction from

the King, for losses or irrecoverable debts, and as long as the officers of the Phra Khlang's Department pointed out the persons to whom only the foreign trader could dispose of his goods, he had a right to look to the Government for any losses that he might sustain by the insolvency or misconduct of such persons. But the proposed new regulations, as they allow the foreign trader to buy and sell freely without the intervention of the Phra Khlang's Department will of course render it incumbent upon himself, to take care with whom he may deal. The Mission would recommend British traders to give no credit, or at least very sparingly and cautiously, as the Siamese are wholly ignorant of that great mercantile virtue punctuality, and are besides always very averse to part with money once come into their possession.

The prohibition against the introduction of opium into the dominions of Siam is of very ancient date, although in some reigns it was not so rigidly maintained as it has been during the last five or six years. Turpin says in his History of Siam, vol. 2nd., page 262 that opium in Siam was positively contraband and that the reigning king in 1771, had sentenced to death several of his subjects, who had transgressed this Law. The penalty of late years has been forfeiture of the opium with a fine of eight times the weight in in silver, for all opium found with any person, and sometimes, particularly at Queda, and in the Southern Provinces of Siam, the boat and the whole of the rest of the Cargo or property of a party discovered introducing opium, have been seized and confiscated. The clause in the 10th Article was intended at the same time that the Siamese Ministers prohibited the introduction of opium to fix the penalty of disobedience, and on as low a scale as possible. Although the Mission learnt that opium could be easily introduced and sold at Bangkok, it cannot recommend any British trader to subject himself to the risk and personal inconvenience of conveying such a commodity there.

The Siamese Ministers had been in the practice of opening all English letters that came into their possession, and some dispatches of the Envoy were so treated. Strong representations were made of the disgrace and heinousness of such a practice, and the terms of the 11th Article are as far as the Siamese Ministers could be persuaded to acquiesce in this point. They took care to reserve to themselves the power of still opening the letters of all Asiatic Subjects of the British Government, on the plea that the subjects of Ava might endeavour to transmit incendiary letters into Siam through our territories on the Coast of Tenasserim. The concluding clause of the 13th Article was introduced, in consequence of a small fee having once been charged to all natives quitting Prince of Wales' Island, which fee does not now exist. The Original Siamese in the tenth as well as in the 13th Article mentions that *Khek* and "*Cheen*" or Chinese only shall be allowed to travel into the interior of the Siamese territories, from our possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim and to the Eastward. "*Khek*" is literally a foreigner, but it is a term generally applied to Malays and Natives of Hindostan, who are not descendants of Europeans. The Burmese are called "*Phama*", the Peguers "*Mon*," the Chinese "*Cheen*" *Chek*, and Europeans generally "*Farang*" distinguishing the English by "*Angkrit*," the Portugueze "*Portukis*" and the Dutch "*Holanda*." The *Americans* are *Merican*, and all native Christians are termed "*Porcukis*." "*Khek*" and "*Cheen*" of the original have therefore been translated into "Asiatic Subjects" of the British Government not being Burmese, Peguers or descendants of Europeans. The Siamese Negotiators declared that the standing Laws of Siam, prohibiting Burmese or Peguers being admitted into the Siamese territories could not, for the present, be altered, and that as a great portion of the Burman Country still belongs to Ava, the inhabitants of which might try to gain admission into Siam with

our Burmese Subjects, or under pretence of being such, it was necessary that no person should be admitted into the Siamese dominions from our Burmese conquests without being furnished with certificates or passports.

The Siamese Negotiators also could not be prevailed upon to admit Europeans or descendants of Europeans into the interior of the Siamese dominions. They have an idea, that the object of such persons visiting the interior would be only to ascertain routes, and make maps for purposes of future hostility, and the Mission found it impossible to prevent or remove this jealousy and suspicion. But after all the overland trade between our possessions and the Siamese dominions will be conducted, as it has always been, only by Chinese, Malays and Natives of the Coast of Coromandel, in the hands of which last mentioned race, the ancient commerce between Mergui and Siam was so extensive and flourishing. All British Subjects, without exception, may of course proceed by Sea to any Siamese port. The Siamese Government like many others reserves to itself the power of prohibiting the exportation of Grain and importation of firearms. By the present Laws of Siam, no Vessel can export paddy or rice without a Special license, and the Siamese Negotiators, although they expressed their readiness, in seasons of plenty, to permit British as well as Chinese Traders to export supplies of grain, still desired that the clause in the 1st Article of the Commercial Agreement should be expressed as it is, in order to prevent British Vessels from coming to Siam for the sole purpose of trading in grain, or from claiming a right to export it. A Siamese fathom measures 6 feet 6 inches of English measure, and a Siamese Tical, as assayed lately at the Calcutta Mint is worth One Sicca Rupee and about three annas and a half. The Sicca Rupee is not current in Siam, but the Spanish Dollar is very readily received by the public officers, who have allowed sometimes the

Commanders of American Vessels to disburse their Port Charges at the rate of 8 *Selungs* or 2 *Ticals* Per Dollar, instead of at the usual Market Rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ Selungs.

Every Government has of course a right to define the terms upon which it will admit vessels into its ports, and particularly as far as its capital. The Siamese Government is extremely anxious to prevent any vessel crossing the bar, until full information be received at the capital of her size, character and object, and few matters can give so much discontent and dissatisfaction to the Siamese officers, as a Vessel crossing the bar at once, and reporting her own arrival at Paknam. The navigation over the bar is not very difficult, and the Commander of the American Ship, Liverpool Packet, found a Chinese fisherman to engage to pilot his vessel over it. This man was immediately after seized, and he has not been since heard of. It is therefore particularly recommended to commanders of English Vessels who do not desire to be subjected to inconvenience or difficulty in their future commercial transactions at Bangkok, to conform as strictly a possible, in the first instance, to the Port Regulations set down in the Commercial Agreement, which are no more than what have always been in force.

The custom, by which a vessel is obliged to land her Guns at the Mouth of the River, must have been introduced at the time the French Detachments were driven out of Siam. M. Chaumont mentions having been saluted by the Guns of English and Dutch vessels lying above Bangkok, and of vessels at anchor off the old City of Yothia having fired salutes in celebration of the coronation of the Kings of England and Portugal. La Loubère makes no mention of the custom. The vessel in which Kempfer went to Siam does not appear to have entered the River. But Captain Hamilton, who visited Siam in 1719, mentions his

having been obliged to land and deposit his guns at Bangkok, before his vessel proceeded to the old capital Yothia. This regulation is enforced by the Siamese, not only as a measure of precaution and safety, but as a security against a Commander leaving the port with any of the inhabitants of Siam, or without discharging the whole of his Port Charges and duties. It was tried without success to have this regulation limited to the delivery at Paknam of all Powder on board of British Vessels. Any urgent attempts to have the Guns left on board during the state of distrust in which the Mission found the Court respecting the views and intentions of the British Government, would have been of no avail, and would have served only to augment the suspicion and fears of the Siamese. The Siamese officers measure vessels inside between decks at what they consider, often erroneously, to be the broadest part. The space between the lining and outer plank of the vessel is included, and if the measure cannot be introduced there, an allowance is made for it. The concluding clause in the 4th Article of the Commercial Agreement refers to the fees recently levied of 28½ and sometimes 32½ Ticals, upon every Junk hired for the purposes of conveying the residue of a Cargo to a Vessel that had been obliged to cross the bar before her lading was completed. One of the greatest difficulties experienced at Bangkok is the tedious and procrastinating manner in which the Siamese conduct business. They have no idea whatever of the value of time and in no part of the world are the delays of office more vexatious. This point was urgently pressed on the notice of the Siamese Ministers by the Mission, and one part of the 5th Article of the Commercial Agreement was intended to remind the Phra Khlang of the inconvenience of keeping a Commander of a British vessel waiting two or three days for his Port Clearance.

The 6th Article of the Commercial Agreement gave the Mission a great deal of trouble. The Siamese

Ministers first proposed to render all British Subjects, without exception, liable to capital punishment and whipping, for the commission of any offences with respect to which the Laws of Siam have prescribed such punishment. The Mission pointed out that British Subjects are entirely ignorant of the Laws of Siam, and possess no means of acquiring a knowledge of them, that it would be much better to express in this Article for what offences they should suffer death, and that it was not our custom to whip the Commanders of Ships, their officers or Merchants, but to punish them by levying a pecuniary fine upon them. The Ministers after some Argument, agreed to render this Article more precise as to some of the penalties to which British Subjects should be liable, but they then declared that it did not provide for one offence which in the eyes of a Siamese is of much greater magnitude than even murder, speaking disrespectfully of His Majesty the King of Siam, a crime which is invariably punished with death. The Mission observed, that it did not possess the power of engaging that British Subjects should be liable to capital punishment for such an offence, and that it was improper to suppose for a moment, that any person should speak disrespectfully of so great and enlightened a Prince as the present Monarch of Siam. After much discussion, this difficulty was overcome, and it was finally settled that the Right Honble. the Governor General should particularly caution British subjects visiting Siam, not to show disrespect in any manner to the officers of Siam. The Mission is obliged to acknowledge that British subjects, who have hitherto visited Bangkok, have found it extremely difficult to restrain the expression of their opinions respecting the conduct and character of the officers and people of Siam. Yet moderation and forbearance on the part of a British Trader, desirous of making a profitable adventure to Bangkok, are indispensable, for the Siamese officers are vexed and hurt by contemptuous and intemperate language

in the same proportion as their conduct is ever provoking it. We beg to refer here to the account given by Captain Hamilton in 1720, of his narrow escape from forfeiture of life, and of the whole of his vessel and property, upon a charge of having only said, that "the King of Siam had been imposed upon" as expression which was declared to be *high* treason.

(Signed) H. BURNEY—Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Statement respecting Captain Burney's Mission to Siam in 1825.

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MISSION TO SIAM.

In the Spring of the Year 1825, the Supreme Government resolved to depute a Mission to the Court of Siam. At that period of time detachments of Siamese troops were in the immediate vicinity of Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, whilst the British Garrisons of those places were of too reduced a strength to afford protection to the Burmese inhabitants in the interior, large parties of whom had been seized and forcibly carried away by the Siamese.

In order to prevent any collision and embarrassment from such a state of things, and referring particularly to the character of the Siamese, a race so jealous and wholly ignorant of the principles of international law, near whose possessions the war against Ava had suddenly brought our troops, it was judged advisable to communicate to the Siamese Court in a public and conciliatory manner, some knowledge of our ulterior views; and the accession of a new King to the throne of Siam was considered to furnish a good ostensible object for sending an Envoy to compliment His Majesty.

The person selected as Envoy was Captain Henry Burney, of the Bengal Military Establishment. Captn. H. Macfarquhar was appointed Assistant to the Envoy, and to command the Escort, and Mr. Harris to act as Surgeon to the Mission.

The Supreme Government did not consider Siamese co-operation in the Burmese war, as in any way important or desirable, and the Envoy was directed not to include an application for such aid in his negotiations, further than a supply of draft and carriage cattle. The Envoy was to assure the King of Siam of the desire of the Governor General to cultivate a good understanding with the Court of Siam, and to afford the fullest explanation on any points connected

with the Burmese War; and further to keep the Court of Siam well informed of the progress of the War, and to persuade it to release all inhabitants who might have been carried away by the Siamese Officers from the Tenasserim Coast since it fell into our possession. At the same time the Envoy was empowered to combine with the above objects an endeavour to effect an improvement in our commercial relations with Siam; and the restoration of the King of Queda to the territories from which he had been expelled by the Siamese Chief of Ligore.

The Envoy left Calcutta in the Month of May 1825, and upon his arrival at Prince of Wales Island found the native inhabitants there in the greatest state of alarm, at some extensive equipments that the Rajah of Ligore had collected at Queda for the ostensible purpose of proceding to occupy the Malay State of Perak (which had been brought under Siamese dominion in the year 1818) and to attack the Chief of Salengore.

Under the sanction and instructions of the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, the Envoy visited the Rajah of Ligore at Queda, and on the 31 July 1825 prevailed upon him to enter into a Treaty, agreeing to dismiss his armament; and to leave his quarrel with the Chief of Salengore to the mediation of the Governor of Prince of Wales Island. He engaged not to send any force by land or water to the southward of Penang, and he promised to accompany the Envoy to the Court of Siam.

The Mission sailed from Prince of Wales Island, on board the Brig Guardian, Captn. G Sutherland, on the 25th September 1825, and, after touching at Malacca and Singapore, arrived at Tringano on the 17th October and at Ligore on the 28th. The Raja of Ligore, owing to the illness of his youngest and favourite son, declined proceeding any farther by water; but consented to allow Mr. Harris (Surgeon to

the Mission) and Mr. Leal, the Interpreter, to accompany him by land to the Siamese Capital; and sent forward in the Mission ship one of his sons, a Commissioner from Bangkok, and 17 of their followers.

The Mission left Ligore on the 8th and anchored off the Village of Paknam at the Mouth of the Menam river on the 28th November 1825. After some delay, against which the Envoy remonstrated, the Mission was received with due honor at Bangkok on the 4th December.

On the 16th December 1825, the points of etiquette having been adjusted, the Mission was introduced with great ceremony to the King. Ample provision was made for the accommodation of the Mission during its stay at Bangkok.

The Envoy obtained an audience of leave on the 17th July 1826, and from the Wangna, or, as he is styled by the native Christians of Bangkok, the second King, on the 18th on the night of which day the Mission quitted Bangkok, charged with a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce, which the Envoy had negotiated with the Ministers, and with a reply from the King himself to the Letter from the Governor General.

On his arrival at the Court of Siam the Envoy found that the wildest and most improbable reports respecting the hostile intentions of the British Government had been disseminated by Peguers, Chinese and Malays. By patience and good humoured expostulation the Envoy succeeded in removing, in some degree the distrust and jealousy which these reports had excited in the minds of the Siamese Ministers, who permitted him to establish communications with the British Officers at Tavoy and Martaban, by which means the Siamese Court was kept more correctly informed of the progress of the war in Ava, while at the same time the British authorities in Pegu and Ava were fully apprized

of the views, disposition and ability of the Siamese Government to afford our Army any kind of facilities.

Having found the Foreign Minister, with whom the negotiations were in the first instance conducted, unfriendly to the Mission, and indisposed to repeat to his colleagues, the verbal representations which were made to him, the Envoy succeeded in opening a communication in writing with the Siamese Privy Council, and prevailed upon them to allow him to attend their meetings, and to discuss and settle at repeated conferences with the whole of them, the several objects of his Mission.

Captain Burney's efforts were primarily and successfully exerted in behalf of the unfortunate individuals who had been seized and carried off from the Coast of Tenasserim. They had been reduced to slavery, and distributed among the different Ministers and officers whose personal interests were therefore strongly opposed to the measure of releasing them. A small daily allowance of Paddy, without any clothing or habitation was all that the poor captives received for the most servile and laborious occupations. Many of them had died from the effects of fatigue and hard usage. Of the survivors, upwards of 1400 Men, Women and Children were, through Captain Burney's instrumentality, rescued from a most intolerable slavery, and restored to their homes.

Upon the accession to the throne of the present King, he declared that he was determined not to be a King-Merchant. He accordingly abolished many of the Monopolies held by his predecessor: but the circumstance of the revenues being to a great extent, paid in kind obliges the Government to dispose of goods by sale.

British traders were subject to two great evils; 1st the claims of pre-emption exercised by the Siamese Officers who fixed very low prices upon articles im-

ported; 2d. The uncertainty as to the duties and charges to which they were liable. The first mentioned evil is remedied by a clause in the 6th article which provides that all merchants shall be allowed to buy and sell without the intervention of other persons. This privilege is more fully conveyed by the 1st Article of the Commercial Agreement.

2d. With respect to duties and charges, Captn. Burney, upon the authority of Captn. Hamilton's Account of the East Indies (published in 1727) attributes their high amount to a commercial arrangement made by a Mr. Collet, Governor of Fort St. George, who, in the year 1718,* persuaded the Siamese Government to impose those duties and charges upon all British subjects, who were not employed by him. Upon the same authority, Captn. Burney says, that, in the year 1684, the Siamese Envoys, who were sent to France, visited London, and concluded a Commercial Treaty, which was annulled by Mr. Collet's Agent in 1718. No notice or Copy of the supposed Treaty of 1684 appears to exist among the records of the East India Company; nor can it be found at the State Paper Office.*

* No trace of this arrangement has been found up to the present time.

* Mr. Jones, by direction of Mr. William Wynn made enquiry upon this subject at the State Paper Office in the beginning of November 1827.

A large portion of the exorbitant charges levied upon trade went into the pockets of the Prah Klang (Foreign Minister) and his officers. The consolidation of all these uncertain demands into one charge, proportioned to the breadth of the vessel, will not only be a great saving of trouble, but an abatement of the amount which has been heretofore paid under various heads by our traders.

The practice of making presents to the Siamese Officers will probably be continued; but as a return is always made, a merchant who can find no sale for his goods may obtain something in exchange by tendering them as presents to the King or his Ministers.

The Siamese Government have no idea of what is called "a free and unrestricted trade." They took

great care to reserve to themselves (Art : 7) the right and power of refusing the privilege of residence in Siam to British subjects. The Envoy found great difficulty in persuading the Ministers to include Surat Merchants, and other Asiatic subjects of the British Government in the benefits conceded to commerce by the Treaty.

The trade of *native* Junks between Siam and Penang and Singapore, is conducted by private Chinese Merchants who make only one voyage annually. Captn. Burney is of opinion that they will probably be superseded by British traders who can navigate at all seasons.

"That the present Treaty" (says Captn. Burney) will at once change a system which has existed for Centuries, no one can presume to hope. The influence of the Prah Klang and his officers, who are all traders, will still be secretly employed against our Merchants ; but as the Treaty was not dictated to the Siamese, but discussed, and originally written in their own tongue ; and above all, as it is the manifest interest of Siamese to keep it, there are many grounds for hoping, that its provisions will be generally respected and maintained by that nation."

The further remarks of Captn. Burney upon the Treaty and upon the "Agreement with respect to English vessels," will be most conveniently noted against the several articles of which the following is an abstract.

TREATY OF AMITY and Commerce between the English Government, and the Government of Siam, concluded by Captain Henry Burney at Bangkok on the 20th June 1826 : and ratified by Governor General Earl Amherst at Agra the 17th January 1827, and by the Vice President in Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Art. 1. The Contracting parties engage to live in friendship, love and affection and not to molest any place, territory or boundary belonging to each other.

The terms here used were expressly designed to leave open the question respecting the subjection of the Malay States to Siam.

2. Should any offence be committed by the subjects of either party, the case shall be carefully and fairly investigated and the offender punished by his own Government. If any armaments should be fitted out by either party in the neighbourhood of the other's possessions, the object of such armament shall be declared.

The Siamese Negotiators had in view the security of the Rajah of Ligore against an attack from Prince of Wales Island ; and the Envoy wished to prevent the occurrence of another such cause of offence as the Rajah's equipments had given that Government, in the year 1825.

3. Questions regarding boundaries shall be investigated by Commissioners to be appointed by each of the contracting parties.

The great extent of uninhabited mountains and forest intervening between our Tenasserim Provinces and the Siamese dominions, must preclude all chance of dispute for many years.

4. Fugitives shall not be pursued and seized, but must be demanded. It will be at the option of the party in whose territories they have sought refuge to surrender them or not.

Siamese Subjects are more likely fly to us, than British subjects to them. They make little or no difference between civil and criminal offenders.

5. British merchants and their vessels may have intercourse and trade with any Siamese country *which has much merchandize*. They shall be protected and permitted to buy and sell with facility. The customs of the place will be explained to them by proper officers, and must be observed. The like privilege to be granted to Siamese Merchants and vessels trading to British ports on the same condition.

The Siamese desired to reserve the power of preventing British Ships from entering Chantaboon, and other ports which they have not been accustomed to visit. Their object is to make Bangkok an entrepot for the whole commerce of the country. (See also Art. 9.)

6. Merchants are to pay the duties on commerce, according to the customs of the place. They shall be allowed to buy and sell without the intervention of other persons. The assistance of the respective Governments shall be afforded to enforce payment of debts due to merchants; but if a merchant shall, without due enquiry, trust a person who has no property, it is his own fault, and he must bear the loss.

The Siamese law gives the creditor the right to seize and imprison the debtor or any of his family; but if he should strike the party the debt is cancelled.

When British merchants could only deal with such individuals as the Prah Klang licensed, they had an equitable claim upon Government for irrecoverable debts; but as all intervention of Government between buyer and seller is now done away, the merchant must endure the loss of bad debts.

7. If a merchant be permitted to take up his residence in the country, and to build or hire houses, shops or warehouses, he shall be protected from oppression, and allowed to depart when he desires so to do, and to take his property with him.

8. Vessels putting into port for the repair of injuries sustained at sea shall be protected. The property saved from wrecks to be restored on payment of salvage to the owner, or in case of his death to his heir. If any Siamese or English subject die in an English or Siamese country, whatever property he have shall be delivered to his heir. If the heir be not living in the same country, and should be unable to come, he may appoint a person by letter to receive the property, the whole of which shall be delivered to such person.

9. If an English Merchant should resort to a Siamese port with which it has not been the custom to have intercourse, it will rest with the Governor of the place either to furnish him with a cargo, or not, according to the quantity of merchandize at the place.

See remark on Art. 5.

10. The English and Siamese mutually agree, that there shall be an unrestricted trade between them in the English countries of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore, and the Siamese Countries of Ligore, Mirdelong, Singora, Patani, Junkceylon, Queda, and other Siamese Provinces. Asiatic Merchants of the English countries, not being Burmese, Peguers or descendants

The Siamese Negotiators could not be prevailed upon to admit Europeans or descendants of Europeans, into the interior of the Siamese dominions. They have an idea that the object of such persons visiting the interior would be only to ascertain routes, and make maps for purposes of future hostility. But after all, the overland trade will be conducted, as it has always been, by

of Europeans, will be allowed to trade freely *overland*, and by means of the rivers. Asiatic merchants, as above described, desiring to enter into, and trade with the Siamese dominions from the Countries of Mergui, Tavoy, Tenasserim and Yé, which are now subject to the English, will be allowed to do so freely, overland, and by water, upon the English furnishing them with proper certificates. But merchants are forbidden to bring *opium* which is positively a contraband article in the territories of Siam, and should a merchant introduce any, the Governor shall seize, burn and destroy the whole of it.

11. Correspondence of Europeans shall not be intercepted or inspected by the Officers of Government.

12. Siam shall not obstruct Commerce in the States of *Tringano* and *Calantan*, nor shall the English molest or disturb those States, upon any pretence whatever.

Chinese, Malays, and Natives of the Coast of Coromandel, in the hands of which last mentioned race the ancient commerce between Mergui and Siam was extensive and flourishing. All British vessels may proceed by Sea to any Siamese port.

A former King sentenced to death several of his subjects who had imported *opium*. The penalty of late years has been forfeiture of the article and a fine of 8 times its weight in silver. Captn. Burney thinks that no British trader should subject himself to the risk and personal inconvenience of conveying such a commodity to Siam.

The Siamese Ministers had been in the practice of opening all English letters that came into their possession and some dispatches of the Envoy were so treated. They still reserve the power of opening the letters of Asiatics on the plea that the subjects of Ava might endeavour to transmit incendiary letters into Siam through our Tenasserim Provinces.

See observations upon Article 14.

13. The Siamese engage to take proper care of the country and people of *Queda*. The inhabitants of P. W. Island and of Queda shall have trade and intercourse as heretofore. The Siamese shall levy no duty upon stock and provisions, such as cattle, buffaloes, poultry, fish, paddy and rice which the inhabitants of P. W. Island or Ships there may have occasion to purchase in Queda: "And the Siamese shall not farm the mouths of rivers, or any stream in Queda, but shall levy fair and proper import and export duties. When the Rajah of Ligore returns from Bangkok he shall release the slaves, personal servants and family of the former Governor of Queda. The English engage not to attack nor disturb Queda, nor to permit the former Governor or any of his followers to do so. They also engage to make arrangements for the residence of the former Governor, at Malacca or in some other place, and not at P. W. Island or Perak or Salangore, or any Burman Country." Should they fail in this particular they will not be entitled to the benefit of the foregoing concessions. The English will not prevent any Siamese, Chinese or other Asiatic inhabitant of P. W. Island from going to reside in Queda if they desire it.

The ex-King of Queda is the son of the King who ceded Penang to Captn. Light in the year 1786. The ex-King, in consequence of a disputed succession, took refuge with the Siamese Governor of Ligore, who conveyed him to Bangkok where he was kindly treated, and was raised to the Sovereignty of Queda by the appointment of the King of Siam. By his misgovernment he alienated the affections of his people: and by his intrigues with the Burmese, so exasperated the Court of Siam against him, as entirely to defeat every effort of the Envoy to procure his reinstatement in power. The Envoy "found the object to be unattainable by any means short of actual intimidation, by which it is possible that he might have gained this, but he would have infallibly lost every other object of his Mission."

Captn. Burney strongly recommends the removal of the Ex-King of Quedah to some situation where he will not have the means of exciting disturbances in Queda, or of provoking the pride and jealousy of the Siamese.

This was introduced in consequence of a small fee having been charged to all Natives quitting P. W. Island, which fee has since been abolished.

14. The Siamese and English mutually engage not to interfere in the Government of *Perak*. The English shall not dissuade the Chief from sending to Siam the Gold and Silver* flowers (Boonga Mas den Perak) as heretofore; nor shall they prevent an amicable intercourse from being carried on between Ligore and Perak.

The English will not allow the State of *Salangore* to attack or disturb Perak; and the Siamese shall not go and attack or disturb Salangore.

*** NOTE. These sort of offerings apear to have been common in other Asiatic countries, in ancient times.**

With reference generally to the *Malay* States, Captn. Burney upon the authority of historical works, observes, that they were anciently under the dominion of the Siamese; and that although the Malay Chiefs had profited by the occassional weakness of the Siamese Government to set up an independence, it has been but of short duration. "There is little chance now (he adds) of the Supremacy of Siam being disputed." The triennial offering of gold and silver flowers occasions an expense of about 1000 Dollars, which, however, is overpaid by the presents given in return by the Court of Siam. But the obligation which this token of subjection involves, is undefined and regulated only by the wants or caprice of the paramount state, in requisitions for troops, Guns, boats, or provisions.

Siam, however, does not appear to have divested the Malay States of the rights of sovereignty, as, with the exception of Patani, the inhabitants are a mixed race of Siamese and Malays; she has suffered their Governments, laws, customs and religion, which are widely different from her own, to subsist entire.

Johore and *Pahang* have long broken off their connection with Siam, but *Tringano* is under the Siamese Governor of Singora,

and *Calantan* under the Rajah of Ligore, through which Chiefs they respectively transmit to Siam the triennial token of submission. The Envoy conceived that the preservation of British intercourse with Tringano and Calantan, was the only ground upon which it could ever be the policy of the British Government to interfere in their favour, and he therefore persuaded the Siamese Ministers to agree to the stipulation contained in Article 12.

The present state of *Salangore* is a recent establishment by a colony of Bugis from Rhio, and the Siamese advance no claims of supremacy over it. The Government of Salangore, however, is unquiet. In 1770 it attacked Queda; in 1783 Malacca; in 1806 it took possession of Perak, and again in 1822 it drove out a party of Siamese which had been established at Perak. The last measure (says Capt. Burney) was perhaps justifiable, as Salangore had a strong interest in preventing the approach to its immediate vicinity of a conquering and formidable power like the Siamese. But the Chief of Salangore established a nephew at the mouth of the Perak river, to control the Government and trade of that State; and against this proceeding the Chief of Perak appealed to the Rajah of Ligore, and deputed last year a Mission to His Highness consisting of some of the principal nobles of Perak. The preparations which the Rajah of Ligore then made were designed for the purpose of driving out the Salangore party from Perak, and of attacking Salangore in retaliation for the conduct of its Chief to the Siamese at Perak; and the Treaty which Captn. Burney concluded on the 31st July 1825 with His Highness of Ligore engaged the Rajah not to send any armament to Perak or Salangore, upon condition that the Government of P. W. Island would remove the Salangore party from Perak, and prevent Salangore from interfering in future with that State. These objects were then accomplished by the Penang Government, under an

engagement concluded with the Chief of Salangore, and a part of the 14th Article of the Treaty with Siam, secures, on the same terms, the safety of Salangore from Siamese encroachments.

The interference of the Siamese, in the affairs of *Perak*, was invited by a party hostile to the Rajah on account of his misgovernment. If, however, says Capt. Burney, the Penang Government offer protection to Perak against Salangore, there is no doubt, that the majority of the Perak Chiefs, and particularly the reigning Rajah, will be happy to discontinue all further connexion with the Siamese. The return of the Siamese to Perak will again produce a quarrel between that State and Salangore, the inevitable consequence of which will be to destroy the trade and intercourse subsisting between those States, and Penang and Malacca. It is evidently, therefore, the interest of the British Government to maintain the future independence of Perak, for which the 14th Article of the Treaty with Siam stipulates, and to prevent the Siamese from coming in contact with Salangore. As there is no good overland route from the Siamese territories to Perak, and Salangore, and as their principal communication has always been by water, the Penang Government, from its situation, will have no difficulty in seeing the provisions of the treaty with reference to these two States fully respected and adhered to by the Siamese.

An Agent was sent to Perak by the Penang Government, after the return of the Mission from Siam. Upon the proceedings of that Officer, Captn. Burney makes the following observations:—"The engagement binding the Chief of Perak not to hold any intercourse with or receive Envoys from the Siamese; the issuing of Proclamations against them; the removal of the Rajah's Ministers and officers for having joined the Siamese party; and the appointment of others; the claims to succession of the *Rajah Muda*, or Heir ap-

parent to the throne, formally and publicly annulled 'for having seconded the views of the Siamese;' (an act, the right and policy of which may be questioned, inasmuch as the Perak Monarchy is not elective, and the Rajah Muda, who has many adherents, may be rendered more troublesome than he was)—the recommendation to the Rajah of Perak not to tax the ryots; the plans for establishing a regular Mercantile Agent at Penang, and procuring School Masters from thence; the removal of His Highness's residence from his former abode to a spot nearer Penang, and provision made by a supplementary engagement for the occasional residence with him of a British Officer; the cession to the British Government by another supplementary engagement, of the territory of Pulo Dinding &c.—the whole directed or done by a British Officer, with a guard of sepoys, and in the expectation held out by him of a 'loan of money, and guns, and warlike stores.'—All these acts will, of course, irritate and excite the dissatisfaction of the Siamese, and be viewed by them as an infraction of the Treaty concluded at Bangkok. When, also, it is considered that all these acts have been done with respect to a Prince whose whole annual income is estimated at only 12,000 Dollars, may it not be said, that the ablest opponent to the *favourite plan of the Penang Government, for taking the whole of the Malay Peninsula under its protection*, could not have shewn more clearly and decidedly than what this Agent to Perak has done, the petty, complicated, and unprofitable transactions, which such a plan will entail upon us, and the impossibility of seeing until we have actually embarked in it, how far interference on our part with the Malay Peninsula may draw us on?"

The Siamese Ministers and Captain Burney having settled the Treaty of Friendship above described, entered into an "*Agreement with respect to English vessels desiring to come and trade in the city of Bangkok.*"

1. The traders of whatever description must conform to the Laws of Siam. They are not to export paddy or rice. Fire arms and ammunition imported by them must not be sold except to the Government. If Government do not require these articles they must be re-exported. Other articles may be bought and sold by the merchants without the intervention of any other person. The duties and charges shall be "consolidated according to the breadth of the vessel." Vessels importing cargoes to pay 1700 Ticals * for each Siamese fathom † of the breadth.

Vessels in ballast 1500 Ticals.

The export of grain is, however, in times of plenty, permitted by Licence.

* A Siamese Tical is worth One Sicca Rupee 3½ Annas. 4 Selungs make One Tical.

† 6 Feet 6 Inches.

2. Merchant vessels the property of English subjects arriving off the Bar, must first anchor and stop there, and the commander of the vessel must dispatch a person with an account of the cargo, and a return of the people, guns, shot, and powder, on board the vessel for the information of the Governor at the mouth of the river, who will send a pilot and interpreter to convey the established regulations to the commander of the vessel. Upon the pilot bringing the vessel over the bar, she must anchor and stop below the chokey which the interpreter will point out.

Captain Burney strongly recommends that no British vessel should cross the bar at once and report her arrival at Paknam.

3. After having been thoroughly examined, and having landed her Guns, shot and powder at Paknam, the vessel will be permitted to pass up to Bangkok.

This caution appears to have been introduced at the time when the French were driven out of Siam.

The Envoy vainly endeavoured to limit the regulation to the delivery at Paknam of all gunpowder on board of British Vessels.

4. After the vessel has been again examined at Bangkok and her breadth ascertained, the merchants may buy and sell. If after shipping her export cargo the vessel should be too deep to pass the bar, no extra charge for customs shall be levied upon the portion of her cargo which may be taken down the river in boats.

The Siamese Officers measure a vessel inside between decks, at what they consider, often erroneously, to be the broadest part.

A heavy fee used to be levied upon every Junk hired for the purpose of carrying the residue of a cargo to a vessel that had been obliged to cross the bar before her lading had been completed.

5. Vessels to obtain a Port Clearance from the Prah Klang, which will entitle them to receive their guns &c. at Paknam.

6. Merchants and their people must conform to the Laws: they must not speak offensively of, nor treat disrespectfully any great or subordinate officers of the country on pain of punishment. Murder will be punished with death. Other offences, if committed by the Commander or Officer of a vessel, or a Merchant, by fine. Inferior persons by whipping or imprisonment. "If any person at Bangkok oppress any English subject he shall be punished according to his offence, in the same manner."

The Siamese Ministers, at first proposed to render all British subjects, without exception, liable to capital punishment, and whipping for the commission of any offences with respect to which the Laws of Siam have prescribed such punishments.

To speak disrespectfully of the King of Siam is held to be a crime of much greater magitude than murder, and is invariably punished with death. Captain Hamilton in the year 1720 had a narrow escape from forfeiture of life, and of the whole of his

vessel and property upon a charge of having only said that "the King had been imposed upon," an expression which was declared to be High Treason. The Envoy had much difficulty in exempting British subjects from liability to that penalty.

Captain Burney observes, that the late war with Ava, and the extensive scale upon which it was conducted, did certainly excite in the minds of the Siamese Ministers, a very high idea of the magnitude of our resources, and impress them with a respect which they had never before felt for the character of the British Government. "But (he adds) should circumstances at any time impose upon us the necessity of resenting any violation on the part of the Siamese Government of the Articles of this Treaty there would not be the smallest occasion to undertake any extensive or expensive military preparations. Two or three small cruizers, as pointed out by Mr. Crawfurd,* stationed at the Sichang Islands, which possess a convenient harbour in sight of the mouth of the Menam river, could blockade that river, intercept the whole foreign commerce of the country, and enable us, in a very few months, to dictate our own terms to the

* in the report of his Mission to Siam.

Court of Siam. This end might be even still more expeditiously attained, were the Commanders of the Cruisers to send up a communication to Bangkok, stating their intention of proceeding to attack that city. The Siamese Government and people are so well aware of the inadequacy of their forts to prevent the execution of such threat, that a very few hours would bring an answer from them, offering satisfaction for all our demands. In the infancy of the British power in India, one or two vessels from Madras, appear to have been capable of intimidating the King of Siam into conditions.

It has been already stated that Captain Burney prevailed upon the Rajah of Ligore to permit Mr. Harris, Surgeon to the Mission, and Mr. Leal,* an interpreter to accompany him by land from that place to Bangkok. After having travelled about 200 miles, the Rajah, in consequence of letters which he had received from the Government, disapproving of his having taken those gentlemen in his suite, put them into a small boat, at a place called Pothiu (Latitude 11—10°) and forwarded them by water to Bangkok, where they arrived on the 31 January 1825, more than eight weeks after the Envoy, and three or four days before the Rajah reached that Capital.

* A Native of the Azores, who had gone to Bangkok via Macao; and resided in Siam for nearly six years.

Mr. Harris† drew up an itinerary of their journey, which forms an enclosure in the Bengal Secret Letter of the 2d April 1827,* but they had reason to suppose that the Rajah had given them no opportunity of seeing the proper route between Ligore and Bangkok.

* An extract of this letter has been copied from Home Series, misc. vol. 660. The itinerary will eventually be sent later.

† Mr. Leal afterwards accompanied a party of Burmese prisoners who were liberated at the instance of the Envoy, and sent overland from Bangkok to Mergui. He returned from Martaban to Bangkok up the Uthran river, across the 3 Pagodas to the Mekhlong and down the river. Mr. Leal has communicated the topographical information which he acquired in this route.

* See later.

In a Letter dated the 23rd February 1827,* Captain Burney was informed, that the Vice President in Council entirely approved of his conduct, and was of opinion that he had accomplished, in a manner highly creditable to his judgment, talent and address every object of his Mission which the Siamese Court could be expected to concede. The Governor General, in returning the Treaty, ratified, expressed his concurrence in the sentiments of approbation with which the Vice President in Council regarded the Envoy's proceedings, the result of which had placed the political and commercial relations of the British Nation with the state of Siam on a decidedly improved footing.

With reference to Captain Burney's efforts in behalf of the Burmese captives, it is observed, that the security and confidence which our new Burman subjects on the Tenasserim Coast now feel, (as reported by Mr. Maingy) in consequence of their countrymen having been rescued from the hands of their cruel and inveterate enemies, are the pleasing fruits of Captain Burney's success, which cannot fail to redound to the fame and reputation of the British Government in these countries.

The zeal and industry with which Captain Burney acquired such a knowledge of the Siamese language, as enabled him both to speak and to write it with facility; and the favorable effect produced upon the mind of the King when Captain Burney personally addressed him in his own tongue, are noticed in terms of commendation.

Having stated that the expediency of removing the Ex-King of Queda to Malacca or some place distant from the immediate scene of his former authority, it is recognized by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, as well as by the Government of Bengal, the Letter to Captain Burney proceeds to say, "in requiring the King

of Queda to remove from Penang, it by no means follows, that he thereby formally renounces his rights. On the contrary, he may be informed, that the British Government will not lose sight of the interests of its old friend and ally, in the event of an opening hereafter occurring at any time for effecting some general arrangement with the Siamese, including his restoration to his ancient dominions.

It is indispensable however that he should be distinctly cautioned not to cherish any hope or expectation that the British Government will employ in his behalf any other means than those of fair and friendly negotiation with the Siamese, and any hesitation on his part to remove to such place of asylum within our territories as considerations of policy may induce us to point out to him, must naturally indispose us to take further interest in his concerns. He must be warned also, that so long as he and his family continue to enjoy a stipend and protection from the British Government, he must consider himself bound to abandon all designs and secret machinations calculated in any measure to molest or give umbrage to the Siamese, and tending thereby to disturb the friendship and harmony established between that nation and ourselves."

Opportunities, it is observed, may hereafter arise for extending the protection of the British government over the States of *Calantan* and *Tringano*, in the manner desired by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, should the Home authorities approve of such a proceeding.

With respect to *Perak* Captain Burney was informed, that the Governor of Penang considers that his Agent, Captain Low, had exceeded his powers, and had, moreover, interfered in the affairs of Perak to an extent which was never contemplated or desired. It is, however, probable that the Rajah will be induced to subscribe such a document as will have the effect of satis-

fying the Chief of Ligore of his desire to discontinue his connection with the Siamese.

The Vice President in Council is of opinion that the 14th Article of Captain Burney's treaty will enable the Government of Prince of Wales Island to prevent the subjugation of *Salangore*, by the Siamese, and to avert the inconveniences which would arise from the nearer approximation of their dominions to our settlement at Malacca.

Captain Burney was appointed with the sanction of Lord Amherst, to take the civil charge* of the southern portion of the British possessions on the Tenasserim Coast, under the direction of Mr. Maingy. In his way thither, Captain Burney was to touch at Prince of Wales Island, and then to proceed to Queda in order to exchange with the Rajah of Ligore's Son, the ratified Copies of the Treaty.

If the Siamese should, as there was reason to expect, send an embassy to Calcutta, Captain Burney was to accompany the Envoys.

The ordinary communications with the Court of Siam, which were formerly conducted by the Resident at Singapore, are in future to be carried on by the Chief Political and Military authority in Tenasserim who is to endeavour to forward his Correspondence overland.

Finally Captain Burney was directed to use every means to persuade the Rajah of Ligore to establish the most friendly and liberal trade and intercourse between Queda and the Settlement of Prince of Wales Island.

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* His allowances were fixed at Sa. Rs. 1200 Per M. besides his military pay.

A Letter was addressed by Mr. Swinton to the Siamese Ministers, expressing the gratification derived by the British Government from the conclusion of the treaty, and their grateful acknowledgments for the gracious reception which Captain Burney experienced at Bangkok. Mr. Swinton at the same time notified the intention of Lord Amherst to answer the King of Siam's Letter.

In the concluding part of the Memorandum respecting Ava, it was stated that the Vice President in Council had recommended to Lord Amherst the appointment of Captain Burney to be Consul at Rangoon.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, vol. 673.

Apprehended Invasion of Prince of Wales Island by a force collected by the Siamese Chief of Ligore: He declares that it is destined against Salangore. Treaty negotiated by Captain Burney with the Rajah of Ligore, for the mediation of the British Government in settling his dispute with the Sultan of Salangore, &c.

So far back as the beginning of the year 1824, the Supreme Government alluded to the alarm then existing among the native inhabitants of Penang, in consequence of an apprehended invasion by the Rajah of Ligore, who was reported to be preparing an armament to make a descent on the island, for the purpose chiefly of destroying or carrying off the Ex-King of Quedah, living there under our protection. In the months of May and June 1825 an armament consisting of from 200 to 300 Prows, capable of carrying from 20 to 50 men each, actually made its appearance on the Quedah coast, ostensibly for the purpose of settling a dispute with the petty Malay State of Salangore, which lies between Perak and Malacca. The Government of Prince of Wales Island, in consequence of the assemblage of so unusual a force in its immediate neighbourhood, and the apprehensions excited by it, judged it necessary to assume an attitude of defence, and to remonstrate strongly with the Rajah of Ligore on the subject of his proceedings. Although the Supreme Government could scarcely believe, that the Siamese authorities seriously contemplated a descent on Prince of Wales Island, they nevertheless, in compliance with the urgent application of the Governor in Council, sent a reinforcement thither, consisting of a regiment of Native Infantry and a vessel of war.

Mr. Fullerton, in a Minute dated the 18th May 1825,* recorded his opinion as to the course of policy which should be pursued towards the Malay states, menaced by the Siamese; who, being relieved from

* Copied from Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 101.

the fears of the Burmese power, by our conquests on the Tenasserim Coast, were evidently aiming at the extension of their dominion over the whole of the Malayan Peninsula.

Mr. Fullerton observes, that the interposition of the Netherlands Government of Malacca, and the treaties made by them with Perak and Salangore, served as a barrier against the encroachment of the Siamese on the western side of the Peninsula; that if the Ligore Chief should succeed in subjugating those states completely, (over which Siam possesses not a vestige of legitimate supremacy) we shall have a long line of coast filled with hostile prows, always on the watch to take us by surprise; and a great increase of our defensive means will be required. That, if they subdue Perak and Salangore, there is nothing to stop them from spreading downwards to Johore; and that both Malacca and Singapore, as well as Penang, would then be cut off from all access to the interior, and the valuable productions of the Peninsula be intercepted by a power, whose commercial policy imposes the most grievous restrictions upon trade. He proceeds to say, that the whole Malay race are averse to the dominion of the Siamese, and that any open and avowed support offered by the British Government, would ensure the co-operation of the whole of that population on the Peninsula. He, therefore, recommends, that treaties offensive and defensive, should be made with the petty states of Perak, Salangore, Johore, Pahang, Tringano and Kalantan; and their independence maintained, so as to exclude the Siamese entirely from our proximity. The formation of such treaties could not, in Mr. Fullerton's opinion, be considered as any interference with the Siamese Government, which holds over them no legitimate right of superiority, while to us it would ensure all the advantages that could result from actual possession; freedom of trade and unrestricted intercourse.

In a letter to the Rajah of Ligore, dated 28th April 1825, Mr. Fullerton says.*

* See Fac. Rec., Str. Settlements, vol. 101. "I am bound to remind your Highness ..... may take place."

* * * * * *

Mr. Maingy, who had been deputed to demand of the Rajah of Ligore an explanation of the object of his military preparations, was courteously received by that Chief, who, after considerable hesitation, observed, that the King of Siam had directed him to punish the people of Salangore for having attacked some of his prows three years since, (in 1822). On being more closely questioned, however, as to the purport of the orders which he had received from Siam, he disavowed having been furnished with any that had particular reference to Salangore, but that he was vested with unlimited discretion to punish any of the Malayan States, and especially Salangore, that had given so much cause for complaint, having most unprovokedly attacked and plundered at Perak upwards of 40 of his largest prows.

The Rajah of Ligore, in reply to Mr. Fullerton's letter, wrote as follows :—*

* See Ditto. 2 June 1825, "The country of Perak has become ..... letter to inform me."

* * * * * *

Mr. Fullerton accordingly addressed the Rajah of Ligore on the 9th June 1825.*

* See Ditto. "In respect to what ..... attack upon a friend."

* * * * * *

Mr. Cracraft, the Resident at Malacca, adverting to the danger to which the Malay States of Salangore and Rumbow were exposed from the threatened attack of the Siamese Chief, mentions, that the late Dutch Governor of Malacca, Mr. Thyssen, had concluded treaties with those States in the year 1819, but that they were annulled by the Government of Batavia, and the Chiefs allowed to declare themselves independent,

Mr. Cracraft observes,* that the Rajah of Salangore could, therefore, have no further claim than on the generosity of the British Government; but adds,—"At the same time the subjugation of his dominions, and their annexation to the Siamese Empire, would be most injurious to the interests of this settlement, and, from the best information I can obtain, the Netherlands Government would not have admitted of any such conquest. Malacca, however diminished of late years in territory, trade and population, is still looked up to by the surrounding Malay States as the principal city of the Peninsula, and the proper barrier to interpose between them and any foreign power, which meditates, as it is manifest the Court of Siam does, their universal conquest and formation into a dependent province."

* See Home Series, Misc. vol. 868, 18 June 1825.

On the 2d September 1825, the Governor General in Council communicated to the Government of Prince of Wales Island the result of his Lordship's deliberations respecting the policy which should be pursued towards Salangore. The following is an extract from the letter addressed to Prince of Wales Island.*

* See Fac. Rec. Str. Settlements, vol. 104. "Whatever may be..... of a defensive character."

* * * * * *

Pending the reference to Calcutta, which occasioned the foregoing instructions, Captain Burney was employed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island to communicate with the Rajah of Ligore on the subject of his views regarding the Malay States. Captain Burney was instructed* to offer the mediation of the British Government for the adjustment of the Rajah's disputes with the Chief of Salangore; and to do every thing to discourage any attempt to subjugate the southern Malay States, but without going so far as to pledge ourselves to open resistance. "This," observes Mr. Fullerton, "will be a delicate part of the discussion. It is to be hoped that the increase and disposition of our military and marine force will, of themselves, deter from the attempt."

* 25 July 1825. Copied from Str. Settlements vol. 102.

Captain Burney succeeded in persuading the Rajah of Ligore to abandon his hostile designs upon Salangore; and concluded a preliminary engagement,* subject to revision by the Supreme Government, and by the Court of Siam. In his report to Mr. Fullerton, Captain Burney says, "I must avow that the measures which you, Honble. Sir, have lately adopted for augmenting our military and marine force, have much facilitated my negotiations with the Governor of Ligore. I fairly told him that a reinforcement of troops was daily expected at Pinang from Bengal, and that most probably, on my report of his conduct, the question of peace or war would be decided. I will, however, in justice declare, that this Chief, who was charged with a design of poisoning Captain Low at Trang last year, and of cutting me off last February, and against whom, even when I was last leaving Penang, I was warned to be on my guard, treated me with the greatest kindness and hospitality. I did not take any escort with me on shore, and after the second day my followers were allowed to visit every part of the town of Quedah. I was permitted to go wherever I pleased, and His Highness's son, and His Highness himself, on the last day, visited me without form or ceremony."

* Copied from Fac. Rec. Str. Sett: vol 102. 31 July 1825.

Mr. Fullerton, in a Minute dated the 3d August 1825, observes as follows:*

* * * * * *

Mr. Fullerton proposed to depute a person to Salangore for the purpose of effecting the arrangements stipulated in Captain Burney's Agreement with the Ligore Chief.

* See Fac. Rec., Str. Sett: vol. 102. "In respect to the document .....discussion with that power" and "In respect to Perak..... we found it."

On receiving information of Captain Burney's proceedings (which were concluded before the instructions of 2d September 1825 were framed) the Supreme Government in a dispatch dated the 16th September 1825,* expressed their entire approbation of those proceedings, which, they observed, were in general con-

* See Fac. Rec. Str. Sett. vol. 104.

formity with the views taken in their letter of the 2d September: the policy therein prescribed being quite consistent with every thing that had been arranged with the Rajah of Ligore: the treaty with whom would be forthwith ratified.

The Letter from the Supreme Government to the Secret Committee of the 27th October 1825,* par 9, refers to their consultations, for an account of the proceedings of Mr. John Anderson, the gentleman who was deputed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island to the Rajah of Salangore, with whom an agreement was concluded bearing date 20th August 1825. The first article recognises and confirms the Commercial Treaty negotiated by Mr. Cracraft with the Rajah in the year 1818: the 2d defines the boundary between Salangore and Perak to be the river Beenam: the 3d stipulates the recall of the Rajah's nephew Rajah Hussein, from Perak and his abstinence from any future interference in the affairs of that State: the 4th engages that Pirates shall not be permitted to resort to the ports of Salangore; and the 5th that the Rajah shall surrender criminals who shall seek refuge in his country: the Government of Prince of Wales Island being bound to the like restitution of persons of that description escaping from Salangore to Penang.

* See Home Series, Misc., vol. 660.

It appears from Mr. Anderson's report, which is dated the 26th August 1825,* that a recent period of time, Perak was under the control of Salangore. The Rajah's statement respecting the affair of the prows for the destruction of which the British Government undertook to exact compensation, induced the Envoy to suspend that demand.

* See Fac., Rec. Str. Sett., vol. 103.

Mr. Anderson intimated that he was about to proceed to Perak: but we have not as yet received any report of his proceedings in that country; but among the enclosures in the Bengal Secret Letter of the 11th September 1826,* is a letter from Mr. Fullerton to the Rajah of Ligore complaining that a party of Siamese

* not yet found

troops were at Perak. Referring to a former remonstrance on this subject, Mr. Fullerton says,*

* 27 May 1825—See Fac. Rec. Str. Sett. vol. 138. "I have only once more - - imposed upon him by a treaty."

* * * * * *

Captain Burney was, at the same time, instructed to remonstrate with the Court of Siam against the conduct of the Rajah of Ligore; and, in case he did not obtain redress, to quit Bangkok, first making a declaration that the British Government does not admit the right of Siam to exercise control or dominion, or to interfere in the affairs of Perak or of the Malay States south of Quedah and Patani; and that in exercising such interference, or continuing it if already begun, the Siamese will incur the risk of expulsion by the British Government.

From Captain Burney' Journal to the 18th May 1826, it appears that he had, after a tedious negotiation, concluded a treaty with the Court of Siam. His utmost efforts* failed to prevail upon that Court to restore the Ex-King of Quedah to power. With respect to the other Malay States, he says.*

* "I argued, flattered, and even threatened; but I am sorry to record, I made no impression."

* See pp. 282-3 of the Printed Burney Papers, vol. II.

* * * * * *

At a conference on the 16th May.—*

See do. p. 285.

* * * * * *

The Supreme Government have not as yet brought under the consideration of the Secret Committee, the proceedings of Captain Burney at the Court of Siam.

B. S. L. [? Bengal Secret Letter.]

Secret Department
March 26th 1827.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 660, p. 749.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the Honble. the Court of Directors.

Houble. Sirs,

* * * * * *

Para. 3. Having communicated with the Right Honorable the Governor General on the subject of the Treaty executed by Captain Burney and received it duly ratified by His Lordship, to whom it had been sent for that purpose, we directed the Envoy to proceed without delay to Quedah where he is to meet the son of the Rajah of Ligore and exchange with him the ratified Copies of the Treaty as previously arranged.

4. We will not occupy the time of your Honorable Committee with a repetition in this place of the Instructions with which we furnished Captain Burney on his departure, but request leave to refer you to the accompanying Copy of them which form a number in the packet, expressing our hope that they will be found to be in unison with the views and sentiments of your Honorable Committee. We beg leave also to transmit Copies of the Letters from the Deputy Secretary to Government in attendance on the Governor General, conveying His Lordship's approbation of the zeal, address, temper and ability displayed by the Envoy during his negotiations, and expressing his opinon that the results of the Mission have been in the main successful, as placing the political and commercial relations of the British Nation with the state of Siam on a decidedly improved footing. The Governor General having approved and sanctioned the manner in which we proposed to employ Captain Burney's services at Mergui, after he should have effected the exchange of the ratified Copies of the Treaty when his functions as Envoy would cease, we directed Captain Burney (as

stated in his instructions above referred to) to proceed to the Tenasserim Coast, on the termination of his Mission, transmitting to us by the hands of his Assistant the Copy of the Treaty ratified by the King of Siam.

* * * * * *

We have &c.
COMBERMERE,
W. B. BAYLEY.

Fort William
2d. Apl. 1827.

Bengal Despatches, vol. 104, pp. 248-9, 251-254.

Secret.

To

The Right Honble
The Governor Genl. in Council
at FORT WILLIAM
in BENGAL

* * * * * *

Para. 17. The manner of disposing of the territories which you have acquired on the Tenasserim Coast has been discussed with great ability by the Members of Council, and we have derived from their several Minutes much information, and many useful suggestions.

18. The following appear to be the several courses of proceeding which may be adopted —

1st. To restore the conquests unconditionally to the Burmese.

2nd. To restore them to the Burmese in consideration of an additional money payment, or of the cession of Rangoon.

3rd. To establish an independent Government under a Tallien Prince.

4th. To cede the possessions to the Siamese Government, in return for some commercial privileges, and for objects connected with Prince of Wales Island.

5th. To retain the newly acquired territories under the British Government.

* * * * * *

25. The 4th suggestion originated in an opinion that by the cession of these Conquests, or some of them, to the Government of Siam, we might ensure the active co-operation of that State in our war with the King of Ava, and also secure certain advantages on the Malayan Peninsula of much importance to our newly acquired possessions in that quarter.

26. The first of these motives can have no operation now; the Siamese did not co-operate actively with us, and neither have nor pretend to have any claim upon us.

27. Nor are the contemplated political advantages to be obtained from Siam. It is now admitted that the Government of Siam does not possess the rights over Perak &c. of which we sought the transfer. And in regard to Commercial privileges, it is probable that the possession of the Ports of Tavoy & Mergui will tend much more to the extension of our commercial intercourse with Siam than any stipulation which we could make with a specific view to that object. You have, in fact, concluded a commercial treaty, without the sacrifice of any part of your Territory.

28. And although we do not consider ourselves bound, at all events, to retain these Provinces under the British Government, we cannot disregard the Interests of the Inhabitants, and the probability of exposing them to plunder and Slavery by a transfer to a barbarous Government.

* * * * * *

31. We have therefore only to direct, with respect to all these acquisitions on the Tenasserim Coast, as well as to Arracan, that you do not part with them without authority from England.

* * * * * *

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

(Signed) H. LINDSAY

" J. PATTISON

" GEORGE SMITH

East India House,
London,
25th April 1827.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 671.

Major General
Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.
Commanding the Forces in the
Ceded Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a letter received this day from Mr. Blundell my assistant at Mergui reporting the arrival there of 19 persons from Chimpohun, who had been carried off by the Siamese in 1825. The release of these persons at the present date when we had no means of even tracing their existence will afford the Supreme Government a very satisfactory proof of the impression which Captain Burney's humane and persevering exertions in behalf of these captives must have left at Bangkok as well as of the sincerity of the professions of the Siamese Court to cultivate a friendly understanding with the British Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Civil Commissioner for the
Ceded Provinces.

Tavoy
6th April 1827.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 671.

To A. D. Maingy Esqre.
Civil Commissioner for the Ceded Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the persons as per margin, carried off from hence by the Siamese, arrived here yesterday from Chimpohun. They state that they were liberated fifty five days ago and have been that time on the road. They are provided with a pass but have brought no letter from the Rajah of Chimpohun.

5 Men
5 Women
9 Children
19 Total.

They state that between fifty and sixty persons carried off before we took possession of this place accompanied by seven women subsequently made prisoners, who had formed connections with some of the men were sent to Bangkok a few days before they quitted and that there remained not a single Burmese in Chimpohun, who had been carried off at the same time as themselves.

The whole party are natives of this place.

I have &c.

(Signed) E. A. BLUNDELL
Civil Commissioner for the Ceded Provinces.

Mergui
31st March 1827.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 671.

Moelmyne 25th May 1827

G. Swinton Esqre.

&c. &c. &c.

My dear Sir,

I availed myself of the earliest moment to forward your Official Letter to Bangkok with a short one from myself, with a view to ensure its safe delivery. I was induced to send Lieut. Leslie with it, as he is well acquainted with the Burmese language and is personally known to several of the Tallian Chiefs who came here two years ago with orders to arrange a plan of co-operation with our forces. I have every hope that he will reach Bangkok from the three Pagodas.

Since writing the above, I sent the accompanying communication No. 2 by a Siamese Chief who had come to visit this place, altho' the robbery in question was not of a magnitude to require any serious notice, yet I conceived it might tend to prevent a repetition of any similar act by at once writing to the Siamese authorities, assuring myself of their readiness to check a transaction of the sort.

Believe me &c.

(Signed) ARCHD. CAMPBELL

P. S. The articles stolen were some Bees Wax, Pepper, and a few elephants' teeth.

No. 1.

Major General Sir Archibald Campbell, Commanding the Ceded Provinces on the Coast of Tenasserim and Political Agent to the Governor General of India—To their Excellencies The Six High Ministers forming the Privy Council of the Kingdom of Siam.

The accompanying letter having just come to hand from Bengal I lose not a moment in transmitting so important a document to your Excellencies, in charge of Lieut. Leslie, one of my own officers.

Having the honor to be appointed the medium of communication on Political Matters between the two Governments in this quarter, I have only to say the pleasure it would afford me in the performance of those Duties to cement by every means in my power the happy understanding now existing between our respective Countries.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL
&c. &c. &c.

Head Quarters
British Cantonment
at Moelmyne 16th
April 1827.

No. 2.

Major General Sir Archibald Campbell K. C. B. Commanding and in Political Charge of the Ceded Provinces to the Northward and Eastward of the Saluen River.—To their Excellencies the Six High Ministers forming the Privy Council of the Kingdom of Siam.

By the treaty of peace concluded at Yandaboo betwixt the English and Burmese Nations the whole of the country situated to the Eastward and Northward of the Saluen River, hitherto subject or tributary to the Court of Ava, was ceded in perpetuity to the British Government and consequently the inhabitants of those districts with their Property came under the British protection.

It was therefore with pain that a report was made to me that a person named Gnatuhee, styling himself a Siamese Chief, with thirty men, accompanied by five elephants, made lately an incursion into the said ceded district and took by force from the poor inhabitants of a village named Zamamew the articles enumerated in the enclosed list.* See infra.

Feeling as I do sensible that the conduct of the said Gnatuhee was an unauthorized act, or more probably that of a lawless freebooter, I hasten in either case to make the fact known to your Excellencies, assured that you will give the necessary instructions for the prevention of similar inroads into the territories ceded to the British and that restitution if possible may be made in the present instance to the unfortunate sufferers.

I lately had the honor of addressing you expressing the pleasure it would afford me in the performance of my public duties in this Quarter to cement by every means in my power the good understanding and

friendship so happily existing between our respective nations. In the sincerity of that declaration I now do myself the honor of addressing your Excellencies and to remain &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL
M. G. Commanding
the Tenasserim Coast &c. &c.

British Station
at Moelmyne
1st May 1827.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 671.

Translation.

Letter from the Chou Phea Akka Maha Sena thi Bodi Apaia Peri bora Cromapahu Samuha Pra Calahomi Acka Maha Sena thi Bode Minister of the War Department to Major General Sir Archibald Campbell.

We make known that we received a letter from the Governor of Canbury on the 31st May 1827 intimating that Lieut. Leslie, accompanied by a party of twelve persons, is the bearer of a dispatch to this capital, and that the above mentioned Governor afforded that officer every assistance and transmitted to us two letters, one from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and the other from yourself. We were apprised by the former that His Excellency the Governor General of Bengal is well satisfied with the friendship subsisting between the Siamese and English nations and with the reception experienced by Captain Burney from His Majesty and his Ministers; also that His Excellency and the Members of Supreme Government have signed the treaty and delivered it to Captain Burney for the purpose of exchanging ratifications at Qneda with the son of Phia Lacon, Governor of Ligor, in fulfilment of Captain Burney's promise. In the letter from yourself it is stated that His Excellency commanded you to depute a person in charge of the letter to be delivered to us in consequence of its great importance, and that you have accordingly sent Lieut. Leslie. You also notify that His Excellency has appointed you Governor of the Provinces ceded to the English in the Burmese Kingdom and Political Agent for the affairs of the two nations, enjoining you to preserve and augment the friendship subsisting between the British and Siamese nations. The Ministers have received this communication with extreme satisfaction. The Secretary's letter is very friendly and we entertain the hope that in discharging the duties of the post which you fill, you will increase the friendship between the two nations. The Ministers were highly

gratified at the Secretary's letter which Captain Burney forwarded through Chou Phia Lacon, and was received on the 15th of April 1827: that transmitted by you viâ Canbury is of the same tenor, and the Ministers communicated the contents to His Majesty who is well pleased with the Governor General and the British Nation.

The Lieut. through whom you sent the Letters remains at Canbury complaining of indisposition, and as the journey is long, and the weather pluvious, the Ministers have directed that he should continue there and that every assistance be afforded him. I transmit by the hands of Lecong, Captain, three letters—one for the Secretary, and two to your address, to be delivered to Lieut. Leslie.

Coung Siajuthaya 31st May 127.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) W. FORESTY

Transr.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 671.

Translation.

Letter from Chou Pia Ackana Arena Seboor Apai pere Bora Cromapahu Samna Pra Calahom Acka Mahasena Thibodi! Minister of the War Department to Major General Sir A. Campbell.

The letter which you transmitted by Samung Camansite Chai ma Apuri Pegu from Martaban to the Ministers at his capital notifies that the Burmese have ceded to the English the provinces on one side of the Saluen river from East to North conformably to the treaty concluded between the British and Burmese Nations at Yandaboo, and that all the inhabitants of those provinces are under the protection of the British Government. The letter further intimates that it has been represented to you by the inhabitants of one of those districts that a Siamese Chief named Gurutchui, accompanied by a party of thirty persons and five elephants, plundered the inhabitants of the village of Tamamen and you request the Ministers of this capital to afford redress and restore the plundered property to its owners, consisting of the following articles, as Per list.

7	Peculs of Areca Nut
5	do. of Cardamums
5	do. of Pepper
26	Elephants' Teeth
1	piece of Ramanan Cloth

As soon as the Ministers were apprised of this circumstance, they evinced the greatest concern on account of the friendship subsisting between the British and Siamese Nations, and they immediately issued orders for securing the person of Gurutchui.

We expect you will furnish us with more precise information relative to this affair, as there is no officer in Siam of that name, or it may perhaps be an error

on the part of the interpreters. A further communication is therefore expected from you with a view to the adoption of the necessary measures for inflicting condign punishment on the offender.

Krung Si Ayuthia 31st May 1827.

A true Translation

(Signed) W. Foresty
Transr.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, vol. 660, p. 781.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee
of the Honble. the Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Para. 12. In continuation of the subject of our address under date the 2d. April last, we beg to report that Captain Macfarquhar, Assistant to the Envoy to Siam, has returned to the Presidency with the treaty by the King of that Country. For the details of Captain Burney's proceedings since he left Calcutta, we beg to refer your Honorable Committee to the Despatches from that Officer dated 23rd. April and 12th and 31st. May last. Your Honorable Committee will not fail to observe the alarm which has been excited in the minds of the King of Siam, and the Chief of Ligore by the reports industriously circulated by the followers of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah that the British Government has determined to espouse his cause and reinstate him in possession of his Country, and we regret to observe that the augmented scale of Military Establishments now forming at Prince of Wales Island has seemed to confirm these apprehensions. We have taken occasion to address the Government of Prince of Wales Island on this subject, and on the absolute necessity of confining the public expenditure at that Presidency within the narrowest practicable bounds with reference especially to the present state of our finance, and we have requested the Governor General to communicate, in a direct address from himself to the Honorable the Governor in Council his sentiments on the Subjects adverted to in our Letter to that Government. For the convenience of reference we transmit copies of our correspondence with the Governments of Fort St. George and Prince of Wales Island, and of the letter to the Deputy Secretary in attendance on the Governor General as numbers in the Packet. Amongst these

we would solicit the notice of your Honorable Committee to a paper received from Captain Burney drawn up with advertence to the contingency of the whole or a part of our possessions on the Tenasserim Coast being transferred to the Siamese. Some curious information regarding Siam will also be found in the accompanying copies of papers received from a Gentlemen, named Mallock, who had resided at Bangkok for several years on the part of a British House of Agency, and left it subsequently to the departure of the Envoy from that Capital.

We have &c.

COMBERMERE
W. B. BAYLEY

Fort William
6 July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

We have the honor to transmit for the information of your Honorable Court enclosed Copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Right Honorable the Vice President in Council at Fort William and this Government, relative to an article which appeared some time ago in the Gazette of this Island, commenting upon the Treaty lately concluded by Captain Burney with Siam; although fully sensible of the objectionable nature of the article in question, and regretting exceedingly its having been admitted into a paper published at this Settlement, we must, nevertheless, express our belief that the person who wrote it, as well as the censor who passed it were led into the error committed, from the extreme latitude allowed to the Press at Calcutta, where almost any subject, private and public, appears to be open to the most free discussion without notice or animadversion from the ruling authorities.

2. Prior to the publication of the article in question, the merits of the treaty had been most fully and freely discussed in the several newspapers of Bengal, and we are of opinion that the censor of the Press, as well as the writer of the article alluded to, have adduced arguments, not sufficient entirely to justify, but at least to palliate their conduct on the occasion: as it is fully established that Captain Burney the Envoy to Siam immediately on his return to this Settlement commenced the discussion, and made the Gazette of this Presidency the vehicle for conveying opinions relative to the result of the Mission, which he was well aware were widely different from the sentiments

entertained by this Government; while there was reason to believe that many paragraphs in the Bengal papers, reflecting upon the measures of this Government, emanated from the same source.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

" R. IBBETSON.

Fort Cornwallis

The 6th August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Treaty with Siam.

Para. 2. The treaty concluded by Captain Burney on behalf of the Honorable East India Company with the Court of Siam having been ratified by the Supreme Government, that Officer returned to this Settlement in the month of April last, and proceeded in the early part of the following month to Trang to exchange the ratification with the Rajah of Ligore.

3. The Envoy to Siam having in several of his communications to the Supreme Government reflected upon our proceedings, and made some observations equally unfounded and calculated to mislead the judgment of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, we have been under the necessity of entering into a very full detail upon several points on which a rather hasty decision had been formed from the representations of Captain Burney, and although we have not yet received replies to several of our last communications, we entertain no doubt that from the full explanation given, a more correct opinion will be formed.

Reported Military Preparations.

4. Some misapprehension having existed relative to our requisition for some Draught Cattle from Madras for artillery practice, a requisition made at the recommendation of the Commanding Officer of the troops, the Supreme Government took occasion to call our particular attention to that subject, inferring apparently that we were actually engaged in extensive military preparations, calculated, as surmised by Captain Burney, to excite the

fears and suspicions of the Siamese. The Right Honorable the Vice President in Council took occasion at the same time to urge the necessity (of which our proceedings prior to the receipt of that dispatch shew we were fully sensible) of reducing every superfluous expence. Copies of our revised lists of Establishments at the three Settlements under our charge were sent to the Supreme Government, and it is gratifying to find that our explanation on these points has been considered satisfactory.

* * * * * *

8. While we have been endeavouring by every possible means to preserve the most amicable understanding with the Rajah of Ligore ever since the treaty was concluded, and to conform, as far as rested with us to its several stipulations the Chief of Ligore has been continuing to affect fear and suspicions of our designs, accusing us, because a relief of the Bengal troops by Madras took place, of meditating hostile intentions, and these absurd surmises seem to have met a ready attention from Captain Burney, who although fully aware of their utter groundlessness, has continued to dwell upon them in his reports to the Supreme Government. In order however to put a stop to all such apprehensions, real or feigned in future, our President has suggested to the Rajah of Ligore the expediency of appointing some of his confidential servants to reside here who will keep him informed of all proceedings, and with whom we may communicate upon all matters of business, a proposal which has met with the concurrence of the Supreme Government.

9. With the same disregard to truth and candour which has all along characterised the proceedings of the Rajah of Ligore, the emigration of the Malayan inhabitants, the consequence of the persecution and oppression of the Siamese authorities has been represented as arising from the apprehension of an attack by the British Government, and the theme has been echoed with undiminished force by Captain Burney.

10. A reference to the reports of our Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Province Wellesley prove whence the emigration arises, namely from the continued practice of the Siamese authorities at Quedah seizing numbers of the Malays, and sending them as slaves to the capital; and in respect to the assertions made by Captain Burney of a stoppage of trade at Quedah at the period of his visit, and the departure of Chinese and Chuliah traders from that country, the reports of the Master Attendant, Superintendent of Police and Collector give a clear contradiction, for it is established and the fact is remarkable that at the very period referred to by Captain Burney, and for some months previous, the commercial intercourse between this Island and Quedah had been considerably greater than during a similar period of several preceding years.

* * * * * *

12. With respect to the boundary between Quedah and Perak, it is well known that the Krean in Latitude 5. 10 N. has from time immemorial been the established line and not Korow, and what renders the present discussion more remarkable, the Krean is expressly stated as the Southern boundary by Captain Burney himself in this Chart lithographed at Calcutta about three years ago, and in several documents under his own hand; while it is so well known as even to be so stated in Milburn's Oriental Commerce. In giving directions for the dispersion of a band of pirates, the common enemy of mankind, and with the sanction of the rightful Sovereign in whose territory they had established themselves, we did not anticipate and could not possibly have foreseen the chance of objections in any quarter, especially from Captain Burney or the Rajah of Ligore, and there appears to us good reason to believe that but for Captain Burney's interferences and his too evident desire to cast reflections on this Government, the subject would never have been agitated by the Rajah of Ligore, nor obtruded

upon the notice of the Right Honorable the Governor General at all.

13. In regard to Captain Low's proceedings at Perak, so much objected to by the late Envoy to Siam, it is true that he somewhat exceeded his instructions, and we pointed this out to the Supreme Government at the time, yet it must be acknowledged that his proceedings have mainly tended to give full effect to the only article of the Siamese Treaty which we consider of the smallest importance, namely, relieving the Perak State in toto from Siamese control, and opposing a barrier to the further subjugation of the States on the Malay Peninsula, in the direction of Malacca. There is no question that that article (the 14th.) was never intended to be adhered to by the Chief of Ligore, and but* for the prompt measures taken in carrying into effect what appeared to be its true intent and meaning, the independence of that State has been secured, and with it that of Salangore also. On the inconsistencies and contradictions which characterize the reports of Captain Burney on this subject at different intervals during the progress of his recent negotiations as Agent of the Governor General it would be tedious to dwell. We have referred to some of them in our dispatches to Bengal, and it may be remarked that Captain Burney was as eager in urging the very measure taken by Captain Low as he has since been conspicuous in condemning it. The motives which have produced so extraordinary a bias in favor of the Rajah of Ligore can only be explained by that officer himself.

* Sic

Projected removal of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah to Malacca.

14. The treaty having been duly ratified, we have naturally been impressed with a full conviction of the necessity which exists for giving effect to the reciprocal obligations, as far as this Government is concerned. The point in which we have experienced the greatest difficulty has been the contemplated removal of the Rajah of Quedah to Malacca. Under

all the circumstances of the relations of the British Government with that Chief, much delicacy of management has been necessary, and our object has been to endeavour gradually to reconcile His Highness to a measure which from the manner in which he received the first communication and from the forcible objections which he has continued to urge against it, we sought to bring about by persuasion, and without exciting any unnecessary irritation in the mind of our old Ally.

15. On the return of Captain Burney from Bengal in April last, we considered that as he was intimately acquainted with the views of the Supreme Government and had been long acquainted with the Ex-Rajah, he was the fittest person to communicate the decision of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, and to endeavour to make arrangements for His Highness's removal. Our President being on the eve of departure for Malacca and Singapore, the Resident Councillor was directed to afford every aid to Captain Burney in effecting the arrangement. Mr. Caunter, the Superintendent of Police has also been empowered to use his best endeavours to persuade His Highness to remove, but these, united to our own verbal communications as well as our President's letters, we regret to say have been ineffectual up to this date. We refer your Honble. Court to our consultations and the Minutes of our President in respect to the measures now proposed to be adopted. We are in daily expectation of replies from the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council to our several despatches and our enquiries as to what degree of force may be used to effect the removal of the Ex-Rajah, and in the event of his desiring to quit our protection entirely rather than reside at Malacca, what course we are to pursue. The confident assertion made by Captain Burney that the Ex-King would proceed to Malacca if positively required by us so to do, seems to have led the Supreme Government to issue the peremptory

orders for his removal, overlooking the possible or rather probable contingency of his absolute refusal—and thus leaving us without orders on the case; and we must either permit him to depart, we fear, to organize means of attacking the Siamese territories, which we are now about by treaty to protect, or to resort to the severe measure of making a prisoner of an old ally who came here to seek personal protection; and the orders of the Supreme Government whatever they may be shall be punctually carried into effect so far as we have the means.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
" R. IBBETSON.

Fort Cornwallis
The 21st October 1827.

Printed for private circulation.

THE

BURNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

PART VI.

(January 1826 to February 1831.)

Printed by order of the Vajirañāṇa National Library.

BANGKOK

1912.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 5th January 1826.

No. 2.

Report on the Negotiations which have been entered into by the Rajah of Perak by Captain James Low, Agent to the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island and its Dependencies.

1. The substance of this paragraph* was explained to the Rajah of Perak, who expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the reasons which had induced the Honorable the Governor to delay for a while to enforce the performance on the part of the Governor of Ligore of the terms of the treaty alluded to.

* See the 1st para. of the Instructions to Captain Low 15 Sept. 1826 (Fac. Rec., Straits Settlements, vol. 138.)

2. The Rajah was made acquainted with the full purport of this paragraph * and the opportunity was taken of impressing on his mind the necessity which existed for his immediately adopting a firm and fearless line of conduct with reference to the States of Siam and Salangore, and for his taking instant measures to restore quietness to his country, and to inspire his people with confidence in his Government. He was also given to understand that it would materially depend on himself whether such aid as the British Government might afford to him hereafter against his enemies should effectually avail him or not. The Rajah expressed himself as being perfectly aware that all his exertions would be required to restore peace and order to his Government, which desirable objects however he observed he could not hope to effect without the interposition and aid of the British.

* See para. 2 of ditto.

3. The Rajah expressed his extreme aversion to transmit the Bunga Mas or Bungah Perak, or any other species of tribute to Siam or to any other native power, and assured me of his determination to resist any demands which might hereafter be made for such, as

Perak had always been independent before the late interference of the Siamese and Salengorians. His presentation on two occasions of the Bungah Mas to Siam arose from his apprehensions that the Rajah of that Country would in the event of his refusal to transmit it send an army to occupy his country and dispossess him of his Sovereignty.

4. In order to prove the sincerity of these professions the Rajah of Perak particularly desired that his determination as above stated should form an Article of his Engagement with me.

5. The Rajah expressed a decided aversion to receive any number of Siamese or of Salengore people into his country, whose sole object should not be trade, and declared that his utmost efforts if supported by the British would be directed towards preventing one or more persons from any one of these nations from so entering his country. He also declared that he fully resolved not to send any of his own people into the Siamese or Salengore territories, either with political or hostile views, and not to hold any intercourse or permit his subjects to hold any intercourse with these countries, which should not be purely commercial. The Rajah made these his resolutions to be included in the engagement just alluded to.

6. The Rajah expressed his gratitude for the care which had been taken of his interests by the Honble. the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, but he observed that he had no reliance on Siamese faith since they had betrayed a total want of it on late occasions, and that were the positive interposition and aid of the British to be vouchsafed to him and a party of British troops to be stationed in his Country, he should then feel secure against the aggressions of the Siamese, or molestation from any other quarter. He was informed that the British Government

entertained no wish to occupy any part of his country, provided the Siamese did not occupy or interfere, but that should they enter Perak and interfere with his Government he might in that event implicitly rely on the prompt and effectual aid of the British in expelling them. Also in respect to Salengore, that so long as with the assistance of the British the Raja should maintain himself in independence of Siam he would be protected against any armament or interference from that State.

7. The Rajah on being informed that a written document containing his sentiments on the various points at issue was required by the Honble. the Governor, directed that one should be made out, and it was afterwards delivered to me.

8. As the Chau Phiya of Ligore had glaringly infringed the Second Article of the Treaty entered into between him and Captain H. Burney, by having sent an armed force of three hundred of his troops into the Perak Country, I did not hesitate a moment to enter into a formal engagement with the Rajah and to guarantee to him the assistance of the British against any aggression or interference from Siam or Salengore, provided he should maintain his independence of both to the utmost of his means, and should perform certain other stipulations which circumstances rendered expedient. The Rajah exhibited the most lively degree of joy when this agreement was made out.

9. Upon my requesting him to describe to me the true state of affairs in his country he readily complied. For those particulars which have respect to the views and conduct of the Siamese as connected with Perak, I beg leave to refer to another part of this Report. The Rajah stated generally that almost all the power and authority which he had formerly enjoyed as King had been usurped by the Rajah of Ligore, by his Detachment of troops cantoned in Perak, and by

those Perak Chiefs or Officers whom he had corrupted by bribes, and seduced from their allegiance, to second his ambitious views. The consequence of such a state of things was that his subjects paid no attention to his orders, and that they together with nearly all of his remaining officers were so afraid of the Siamese that they had withdrawn themselves from his service, and even withheld from showing him the common attention and respect they owed to him as their rightful Rajah. The Rajah's assertions were too strongly borne out by obvious proofs to prevent my doubting their truth.

10. It was therefore suggested to him that his cause might derive great advantage were he to summon to his presence all his officers, whether disaffected or otherwise, and to select from among them such persons as he should judge most capaple and willing to co-operate with him in restoring his country to order and tranquillity; besides it would be in some measure a test of their fidelity, and also enable him while forming a new Administration to visit with public marks of disgrace those of his officers who had voluntarily leagued themselves with the Siamese.

11. It seemed to me that were the Rajah to be left as a mere pageant in the hands of a Siamese faction, decidedly inimical to his person and government, the views with the Mission had been sent might be frustrated. Certainly in that case, the Chau Phiya of Ligore would be supplied with the means of maintaining an ascendency in the country without appearing openly to interfere in its management. It was therefore thought best that the Mission should wait at Perak until the Rajah had got matters arranged to his perfect satisfaction.

12. As the Rajah most earnestly and repeatedly solicited my advice as to his best mode of procedure at this juncture, I did not scruple to point out those plans which seemed likely to conduce most to his

interests and future peace. Amongst these it was suggested that he should issue a proclamation to his subjects enjoining prompt obedience to the orders issued by him, and his Ministers by his direction, and warning them against carrying on any intrigues with the Rajahs of Siam and Salengore, on pain of severe punishment, and the displeasure of his allies, the British; and also, that when he had assembled all his Chiefs and Officers he should administer to them collectively a solemn oath of future allegiance to him alone, and again separately to those persons who might be selected for offices under his re-established Government. As the Raja Muda or Heir Apparent and several others of the principal officers of rank had, with their adherents, been drawn over to the Siamese interests, and had taken the oath of fidelity and allegiance to the King of Siam, it seemed that the Rajah would find a considerable difficulty in selecting a set of trustworthy and competent officers. On this point he was left chiefly to his own discretion, (although he made a special request that I would nominate them) as it might be believed that he was best acquainted with their respective characters, and as his situation now required from him the most deliberate choice of Ministers. So considerable, however, for some time was the perplexity in which the Rajah found himself involved, that he hinted an intention of giving up his country to the British Government, which was of course promptly discountenanced.

13. When the Rajah Muda and the other officers, with two or three exceptions, had obeyed the summons of the Rajah, and were assembled at Allahan, the Raja directed that the Proclamation before alluded to should be read in their presence. The new list of Ministers and Officers was then read. To each of these a solemn oath of allegiance to the Rajah was administered by the Imam. A similar oath was also taken by all those officers present who had previously in any way been

employed under the Rajah's Government, inclusive of the persons who had intrigued with the Siamese.

14. The Raja Muda, or Heir Apparent, alias Raja Laut, having been proved to have actively seconded the views of the Siamese in respect to Perak, and having thus acted perfidiously towards his Rajah and his Country, his claim to the succession to the Government was formally and publicly annulled by the Raja, and a nearer relative of the Raja, named Rajah Chaulun, and then holding the office of Bindahara, was publicly and formally declared to be the Heir Apparent or the Rajah Muda Chaulun.

15. I am happy to observe that this desirable change was effected without any resistance on the part of Rajah Laut, although he had a number of adherents, which circumstance might be attributed to the suddenness and secrecy with which the Raja took his measures. Care was afterwards taken by the Rajah that the man should in future be deprived of all power to disturb the peace of the Country, and he adopted measures for securing Pauglim, a Bukit Gautang, and one or two other refractory officers who had declined obeying his summons, owing to their apprehensions that they would be punished for having joined the Siamese party, for being in the practice of abetting and harbouring the pirates who have lately molested the Native Traders to Penang, and for various acts of peculation.

16. After the oath had been administered to all parties, the engagement made with the Rajah was read aloud, and the chief negociations were concluded. The Raja manifested his high satisfaction by firing a salute of Eleven Guns, and the compliment was returned by three discharges of musketry from the escort of Sepoys. The distracted state of the country, and the insecurity the Ryots laboured under, seemed to require that a greater degree of publicity should be given to these proceedings than would otherwise have

been called for.

17. The Raja has now been inspired with a degree of confidence in himself and in those Ministers and officers newly appointed by him, to which he has for several years past been a perfect stranger; and sanguine expectations may be entertained that the resources of his country will gradually improve, that the fine river which fertilizes it will exhibit in a short time along its banks an active scene of native trade, and the long suspended industry of the ryot may again be directed to the cultivation of an exuberant soil, on which the existence of the Perak people most materially depend, and which cannot fail to prove advantageous to Penang by opening to it a new market for grain and other supplies.

18. To further the very desirable end of grain cultivation, it was recommended to the Rajah to refrain from taxing the ryots until they had recovered from the difficulties in which the various invasions of their country had involved them. It was with much satisfaction that I perceived a manifest reluctance on the part of the Rajah to levy a tax on the produce of the soil. He is indeed in several respects over-indulgent to the dispositions of the people, which partake somewhat of indolence and caprice.

19. The Annual Amount of his revenue, which under existing circumstances might be collected could scarcely exceed 12,000 Spanish Dollars, but were the tin mines worked extensively, his duty on their produce alone would average, independent of an increase from other sources, 12,000 Spanish Dollars yearly. At present there are about three hundred men at work in the various mines, which lie at the sources of the small tributary streams falling from the east into the Perak River.

20. His Majesty has promised to give encouragement to trade, and to facilitate the clearing out and

departure of prows trading to Perak. As many of his people have been in the habit of taking merchandize, especially tin, to Penang, without paying the established export duties, he has earnestly requested that the Honble. the Governor in Council may detain any prow or boat from Perak, the Nakodah or owner of which cannot show a Port Clearance from an authorized public officer of His Majesty. To this I replied that in so far as respected any attempt to evade the duty on tin as fixed by the King and Mr. Anderson last year I supposed that no objection would be made to comply with this request; at the same time it was recommended that His Majesty should establish a regular Mercantile Agent at Penang which would perhaps obviate much tedious correspondence.

21. The Rajah has also promised to prevent the importation into his country from any country under the Government or protection of the British, of persons who may be brought to be disposed of as slaves or slave debtors. He has agreed to promote by every means in his power the raising of grain and the rearing of cattle and poultry in his country, for all of which it is admirably adapted.

22. As a greater degree of ignorance of reading and writing seemed to me to prevail in Perak than amongst other Malayan people, I urged the Rajah to have schools established and to commence by having one fixed near his own residence. To these propositions he gave a ready assent, and expressed himself anxious that some competent person might be obtained as a schoolmaster from Penang. He was also advised to send some boys to Penang to be educated.

23. The Rajah has requested that with the view of enabling him to perfectly settle his country, and defend it against his enemies, he may be favored with the loan of money, and some guns and warlike stores from the British, and has accordingly sent Envoys to negociate this and other points.

24. The negociations having been finally arranged at Allahan, it was proposed to the King that he should settle some plan of keeping open a regular and frequent intercourse with Penang.

25. As a preliminary step his Majesty came down the river, and I accompanied him to a village called Kotah Lamboot, which was fixed upon as his residence for the future. Directions were given to build a house for him there, and it may be expected that it will be ready for his reception in about a month. This village lies on the east bank and is connected with others, forming in all about three hundred houses, which have been built since the visit of the Envoy Mr. Anderson last year—a sign of returning tranquillity. The Rajah expects that his subjects who took refuge in the woods from Siamese oppression will speedily return to their houses.

26. It was also agreed that a stockade and a battery should be constructed at the same spot, and that two other defensive posts should be established at Kampong Raja Hassam, one on each side of the river, to protect native trading prows which might enter the river, and further that the superintendence of these should be entrusted to the Luxamana of Shahbundar.

27. At my suggestion, the officer in charge of the Upper Districts lying on the banks of the river, was directed to take speedy measures for opening a road betwixt it and the Krean River, and for facilitating the passage of troops along it. He was also instructed to transmit to me by persons to be sent by that route, and down the Krean River to the Bukit Toongal Stockade, every possible information respecting the nature of the intervening country. Should such a route be found practicable, and these are many reasons for supposing that it will, the Honble. the Governor in Council may be enabled to send assistance on any emergency to the Rajah of Perak

both by land and water, and by the former method, to effectually cut off the retreat of any body of Siamese who may have passed down the River below Rambie, since the route from Perak to Siam lies along its north branch.

28. The Rajah declared however, that so long as the pirates infested the sea coast the intercourse with Penang would be subject to serious interruptions, and proposed that for the mutual benefit of the native Perak and Penang traders a British military station should be formed at the island of Paukaur, lying close off the mouth of the Perak River.

29. A conference was also had with the Raja respecting the piratical prows which have lately done so much mischief along the coast, and on the best methods of destroying them, or driving them off; and I beg to offer the result of it, conjoined with my own suggestions.

30. There can be little doubt but that several Perak officers on the coast are in league with these pirates, or at the least that they connive at their proceedings. The Rajah has promised to exert himself to have them seized, but as they have been long independent of his authority, owing to the mere shadow of power left to him by the Siamese, he proposes to take them by surprize the moment he has the means.

31. The pirates come from Rhio and other parts of the Straits, and their chief haunts since the occupation of Krean, have been the rivers Laraot and Korow, Trang, Sapatang and Bruwas, up which they can proceed a considerable way.

32. The nature of the coast is such that no piratical prows or boats can be pursued with success unless by others similarly constructed and well manned. By means of boats well armed and defended with bulwarks and nettings the pirates might easily be decoyed or overtaken.

33. In time the King may be able to lend an active part in suppressing piracy, but at present he has no money, armed boats, or guns, muskets or ammunition, with the exception of a few old guns without carriages which he employs to fire salutes. His guns, stores and arms were carried off by the Rajas of Kedah, Ligor and Salengore.

34. To manifest however, his extreme anxiety to cooperate to the utmost extent within his power with the Prince of Wales Island Government in extirpating the pirates, the Raja has made a voluntary tender to the British of Pulo Pankour and the other small islands lying off his coast, and has urgently solicited that if the Honble. the Governor in Council should not deem it expedient to send an armed party into his country for its protection he may still be induced to establish a post on Pankour or some one of the other islands contiguous to it. By this measure he observed the pirates would in a manner be hemmed in betwixt the new post and that of Krean; the importance of Perak and its produce would be increased, and he would himself feel secure of having assistance at hand upon any sudden attack from the Siamese; while no armament could clandestinely enter the river, and information of any event could be conveyed in the quickest manner to Penang.

35. I did not hesitate in conditionally accepting the documents by which the Raja cedes these islands, because they are very useful with reference to the objects just specified, and as the infringement by the Siamese of the 2d article of Captain Burney's Treaty with the Rajah of Ligor seemed to me to have rendered the obligation contained in the last clause of the first article.* [* sic ?]

36. Beyond the plans here proposed, I am not aware of any other which can with prospects of success be adopted for clearing the coast from pirates, unless indeed the Raja of Salengore can be made a party in

the common cause, and be bound to aid it to the utmost of his power. There is great reason to believe that the pirates find purchasers amongst his people of the property plundered by pirates, and the least that can be required of him would seem to be that he should be strongly bound down to prevent suspicious prows entering the port and to secure all persons importing articles without being able to exhibit proofs that they were fairly obtained.

37. The Chow Phya of Ligor sent in the Month of November 1824 to Perak a Siamese armed force of two hundred men to relieve Che Hat's party. They were commanded by Sri Maha Jillelah; stayed four months in Perak, and returned to Kedah. Another Siamese force consisting of three hundred men under Sangkhram * a Siamese officer, arrived in Perak in the month of November 1825, immediately after the negotiations with the Raja of Ligor. 26 of these men were from Ligor and the remainder from Kedah, of a tribe originally sprung from the Siamese proper, and still professing the religion, and adhering to most of the customs of that people. Consequently the Chow Phya found it convenient to incorporate their disposable men with his own army.

* or Lo-ang Bhakdi Sangkhram.

38. This armament had remained seven months, when one hundred and sixty three (163) men returned to Head Quarters in Ligor or Kedah.

39. The remainder consisting of about one hundred and thirty seven men stayed in Perak until the 7th of September 1826 when they suddenly set off to return to Ligor or Kedah.

40. Their Chiefs repeatedly demanded the Bunga Mas from the Raja of Perak and stated at the same periods, that if he chose it, he might pay in lieu of it an annual sum of 1,500 Spanish Dollars.

41. The conduct of the Siamese while in Perak was such as might be expected from an invading force.

They obliged the Raja to supply them gratis with rice and other articles. They unceremoniously took away some Malayan women from their families and they levied heavy contributions on the already impoverished ryots, of cattle, poultry, fruit and other articles.

42. The Raja informed me that no resistance was made to these lawless acts, because it was apprehended that resistance would give the Chow Phya a plea for putting in execution his plans for entirely subjugating the country.

43. The Raja delayed giving the Bunga Mas, and finding grain latterly to grow scarce he declined supplying any more to the Siamese forces, to which circumstance he attributes their departure, as *they informed him* that they should return within *three months* to receive the Bunga Mas.

44. The King furnished to me a statement of his losses and those of his people since the Raja of Ligor first showed a disposition to interfere in the Government of his country. The whole amount may be rated at about 20,000 Spanish Dollars, of which they have only received 1,720 Spanish Dollars according to their account.

45. In order more fully to develop the views of the Siamese with regard to Perak an abstract may be here given of the letters which have been written since the month of July 1825 by the Chow Phya of Ligore or by his order to the Rajah of Perak.

Letter Loung Phyaban to the Rajah of Perak (See Infra).

46. The tone of these perhaps betrays even more forcibly than their contents do the determination of the Governor of Ligore and of the Court of Siam to reduce Perak if possible to a Province of their country.

Letter of Loung Pakdee of Kedah to the Rajah of Perak dated 14 Nov. 1825. (See Infra).

47. In none of them is the Rajah treated with the respect which his situation as rightful King of Perak entitled him to. On the contrary the Phya, by by almost invariably addressing the Raja indirectly

through inferior officers, studiously aims at humbling him to a resistless state of dependence on himself, at the same time enhancing his own importance by an assumption of, it may be supposed, unauthorized Titles.

48. The Chow Phya on several occasions has instructed the Rajah of Perak to act in a base and deceitful manner towards the Agents of the Prince of of Wales Island Government And on one occasion he has insidiously endeavoured to prepossess the Rajah against the English by plainly informing him that they are "not to be trusted when their interests are concerned, and that as they are in perplexity how to act, he had better be guided by Siamese Councils."

49. In respect to Perak affairs as connected with Siam and Salengore, he generally conveys erroneous impressions to the Raja; and on one occasion quite misrepresents the tenor of several parts of the negociations he had concluded with Captain Burney, Agent to the Right Honble. the Governor General.

Letter of Loung Pakdee to the Raja of Perak 14 Oct. 1825. (See Infra No. II).

50. By a letter under his own seal also he acknowledges that he had sent a force of 12 officers and 300 men to Perak to remain there and assist in the management of that Country; thereby openly violating one article of the engagement, or Preliminary Treaty concluded betwixt himself and Captain Burney.

51. On various occasions he assumes the right to dictate the line of conduct which the Raja of Perak ought to pursue, uses every art of intimidation, conjoined to magnificent promises, to bend the Raja to his views and frequently employs ambiguous terms to cover or but half explain his own designs and to harass the Raja's mind with fear and doubt. And having so far succeeded and made him almost believe that the British had delivered him and his countrymen over to Siam, he pounces on him with a sudden demand for 200 Bhars of Tin, equivalent to about 2 400 Rs., in

order to pay for certain guns and muskets to be supplied to him by a French ship and which he adds it is his intention to send to Perak to be used there, or in other words to secure the subjection of that state to Siam.

Letter Loung Pakdee to the Raja of Perak 14 Oct. 1825.
Loung Phyaban to the Raja of Perak.
(See infra for the above)

52. Having positively interdicted the Raja from acting on any occasion of moment without either consulting himself by letter, or his agents personally, and without keeping in view the interests of the Siamese, the Chow Phya must have believed that his duplicity would escape detection by the Honble. the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island.

53. The letters here alluded to were given to me by the Raja of Perak but the copies of the replies made to them having been carried away by his last secretary (who left his service) and was dangerously ill in the interior, he would only state generally that they were of a nature calculated to avert if possible the apparent impending entire subjugation of himself and his country to Siam.

(Signed) James Low—Political Agent.
Perak, 27th Octr. 1826.

* See infra.

P. S. 54. Letters numbered 7, 8, 9, from Aluang Pakdee to the Raja of Perak, copies of which were delivered to me by the Malay Translator, and the originals of which I received from the King, having been already translated by Mr. Anderson Political Agent, and transmitted with his report last year, and the translations having been perused by me and compared with the original letters and found correct, I beg therefore to refer to them. Translations of the subsequent letters will be found in the appendix.

(Signed) J. Low, Political Agent.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 5th January 1826.

Abstract of the Ligorean Letters.

Loung Pakdee to the King of Perak—29th July 1825.

First. This letter is addressed by an inferior officer of the Ligorean Chief to the King of Perak, Raja Muda and Maha Munti, thereby degrading the King to the state of a mere Governor of a Siamese Province. Gives a magnificent string of royal titles to himself, a mere Governor of a Province. Artfully represents that the Siamese and English are on a most friendly footing, and then couples it with the assertion that magnificent presents were coming for his King from Bengal. Hints that it was by a great amenity of conduct, and application to him, that he delayed sending 3,500 men to Salengore. Then states the chief objects to be negociated regarding the Salengore and Perak States, and fairly tells the Raja that the English had no intention to interfere in his Government, and that they had not only agreed (the Governor in Council at Penang) that Perak should be attached to Siam, but that it should continue to pay as a perfect dependency, the gold and silver flowers like other Provinces. The Raja is then told to deceive Mr. Anderson by evasive conduct and speeches. Promises great increase of consequence and rank to the Raja from Siam, and that he will represent matters at Court when he shall arrive with Captain Burney. States that the armament has been delayed for the present. States that the Raja Kechil Muda and Orang Kaya Besar had been sent overland from Queda with a force of 200 men for the purpose of joining with the Raja of Perak in the administration of his Government.

Second. Dated 29th July 1825.

He doubts of the consistency of the Penang Government, and represents it as quite at a loss what

to do respecting Salangore and Perak affairs, adding that it was not to be trusted when any advantage lay in the way. Instructs the Raja of Perak to tell a deliberate falsehood to Mr. Anderson, in order to put a stop to the negociations, and which falsehood would have been afterwards taken advantage of to the aggrandizement of Siam. Assumes to himself a power over the Raja, and directs him to be guided by the Counsels of Nakoda Mahomed, who is in the Siamese interest. Endeavours to awe him into compliance by hinting the displeasure of the Siamese Court, and prevents him acquainting the British Government with any event until the Ligore Raja shall have passed his opinion upon it. After threats he comes to promises, and tries to bind the Raja by hints of being allowed to rule his country in greater splendour than heretofore, but still, keeps him to the main point, that all favor and power must reach him from Siam.

Third. 29 July 1825.

To Sultan Abdullah from Loung Pakdee.

States the arrival of Captain Burney and that he had requested that the armament might be delayed. States the objects regarding Perak and Salengore. Advises the Raja to tell his people to remain quiet, and not to leave the country.

Fourth. Aug. 1825.

From the same to the Rajah and his Council.

Expects that the Rajah will tell him all that transpires on Mr. Anderson's visit. Expresses his apprehensions that his good intentions towards the Rajah will be frustrated by the arrival of Mr. Anderson. Reminds him how much it is his interest to attach himself to Siam. Notices the arrangements to be made with Rajah Hassan, and Captain Burney's Treaty. Directs the Raja and his Council to act when in conference with Mr. Anderson agreeably to his (the Ligorian's) wishes, to beware of mistakes, and to argue stoutly; to beware of entering deeply into subjects proposed for discussion, to send Nakoda

Mahomed back soon. States having received a Kris.

Fifth. 12 Sept. 1825. In this letter from Loung Phiyaban, a Queda officer, to the Rajah of Perak, it is stated that the Raja of Ligor approves of the placing of the officers as noticed in the Raja's letter to him. Expects that the Raja of Perak will be devoted to Siam and to him. Says he has gone to Siam (the Ligorean)

Sixth. Sept. 1825. From the Chow Phya to the Rajah of Perak.

States that he wants 200 Bhars of Tin to pay to the Captain of a French ship for 20 cannons and 700 muskets. Tells the Raja that these guns and muskets are for himself. Bids him get the tin within 5 or 6 months. Says he is on his way to Ligore. Dated Monday 26th day of the 8th Month, year fowl.

Seventh. Loung Bhakdee to the Rajah of Perak, 14th Sept. 182[illegible].

After assuming to himself magnificent titles, he states that the armament has been delayed, that the Raja's people were astonished at their appearance and numbers. That Captain Burney had arrived with presents to the King of Siam, and that negociations had taken place at Queda. That the British did not wish to have any thing to do with the Perak Governmeht, because it belongs to Siam. States that Raja Hassan was ordered out of Perak, and other particulars regarding the disputes. States that the Raja Kechil Muda, who is recommended to the Raja of Perak to be Bandahara, goes over to Ligore to wait on the Chow Phiya, and get matters settled here. Permits the Raja Kechil Muda to be Raja Bandahara, and directs other officers to be sent to Ligore to have matters adjusted. Trusts that the Perak country will be governed agreeably to Siamese custom. Requires all important news to be communicated to him, and that the Orang Kaya Besar should forbid a repetition of any thing improper, and instruct the people

in what is right, and moreover inspect the collection of the taxes under the Raja, who will receive the tax on tin. Nakoda Mahomed or Raja Macotta will collect the taxes under the Orang Kaya Besar for the Raja. Outposts to be made at the place where Raja Hassan lived and Raja Macotta will represent the Laxamana, henceforward, as he is old. If any one acts contrary to the customs of Siam, in regard to its dependencies, the said person shall be sent to the Chow Phiya of Ligore to answer for his conduct, and get advice.

And it is further stated, that 12 officers and 300 men had been sent to Perak to assist in the management of the country and behave *according to circumstances*. States that the Chow Phiya will return from Siam, that he will wait on the King of Siam along with Captain Burney, and their affairs having been made known to the King of Siam, he will promote those who merit promotion. The Raja of Perak will be afterwards informed of the determination of the Siamese Court. Cautions the Raja against evil Councillors, and not adhering to Siamese customs, if he desires to live hereafter in peace.

(Signed) James Low, Political Agent.

Engagement entered into betwixt His Majesty Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah Ma alum Shah ibem Menhoom Jumnal Oollah Supreme and rightful ruler over all and every part of the Perak Country and Captain James Low Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca on behalf of the Hon. East India Company, whereof copies have been interchanged and which is to be everlasting as the Sun and Moon. Moreover it is a token of lasting friendship and alliance to exist betwixt the Honble. the East India Company and the King of Perak, and betwixt the King and the Honble Robert Fullerton.

Article First. His Majesty the King of Perak of his own free will and pleasure hereby engages that he will adhere to the stipulations respecting the boundaries of Perak, and the settlements of other points which were made with the Rajah of Salangore by Mr. Anderson, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang &c. And also to all the stipulations contained in the Engagement which His Majesty made with the said Mr. John Anderson dated the 20th day of Mohurrum, Monday, in the year of the Hejira 1241 all of which deeds are hereby declared to be fixed and unalterable. Moreover His Majesty now engages that he will not hold any communication or intercourse with the Raja of Siam, or with any of his Chiefs or vassals, or with the Rajah of Salangore, or any of his Chiefs or vassals which may or can have reference to political subjects, or to the administration of his government, and the management of his country of Perak. His Majesty will not countenance any of his subjects who may connect themselves with or league or intrigue with the Siamese King, or with any of his Chiefs or vassals, or with the Rajah of

Salangore or any of his Chiefs or vassals, or with any other Siamese or Malayan people, by which the country of Perak can in any degree or manner be disturbed and the Government of His Majesty interfered with.

Second. His Majesty the King of Perak will not give or present the Bunga Mas or any other species of tribute whatever to the Rajah or King of Siam or to any of his governors or vassals. Nor will he give or present such to the Rajah of Salangore or to any other Siamese or Malayan people, henceforward and for ever. Moreover, His Majesty will not receive or permit to enter into his country of Perak from the Raja or King of Siam or from any of his governors or chiefs any ambassadors or armaments arriving at Perak for the purpose of arranging political matters, or interfering in any way in the affairs and administration of the Country of Perak. In like manner he will not receive into his country embassies or armaments sent by the Rajah of Salangore or by any other Siamese or Malayan people. Nor will he receive any party from any of the people, Rajahs or Countries here specified into his country should its strength even consist of no more than thirty men. Nor will he allow the least number to enter his country. But all persons of every country will as heretofore have free permission to trade unmolested to any port in the Perak Country provided they do not interfere in its affairs. Should parties or armaments of the description above stated arrive in the Perak country from any one of the countries, or Rajahs, Governors, or Chiefs, or people above specified or should any of the said Rajahs, Governors or Chiefs league with subjects of the King of Perak in order to disturb his country and interfere in any way in his Government, then and in any such case or cases His Majesty will rely, as he now relies, and in all future time will rely on the friendly aid and protection of the Honble. the East India Company, and

of the Honble. the Governor in Council of Pulo Penang, &c. &c. to be manifested in such a manner and by such means as may to them seem most expedient.

Thirdly. Captain James Low as Agent for the Honble. the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, engages that if His Majesty the King of Perak will faithfully adhere to and perform all and each of the stipulations contained in this engagement as above specified, then His Majesty shall receive the assistance of the British in expelling from his country any Siamese or Malays as above stated, who as also above specified may at any time enter the Perak country with political views, or for the purpose of interfering in any way with the Government of His Majesty. But if His Majesty shall fail to perform all and every article of this his engagement binding on him then the obligation on the British to protect him and to assist him against his enemies will cease and he will lose the confidence and friendship of the Honble. the Governor in Council of Pulo Penang &ca. &ca. for ever.

This Engagement which His Majesty has voluntarily and with great satisfaction entered into has received as mark of its validity the Chop or Seal of His Majesty, and the Signature and Seal of the Agent, Captain James Low, together with the Chops of the Ministers of Perak who are also parties in this engagement with the Agent. And it is delivered to the said Agent to remain as an ever enduring memorial of alliance and friendship betwixt the King of Perak and the British.

This paper written on the 18th day of October 1826 of the English year and on the 16th day of Rubi-ool-awul Wednesday in the year of the Hejira 1242.

Signature of the Agent

Captain James Low.

Seal of
the Honorable
Company.

Chop of H. M. Paduka Sri Sultan Mâlema Shah King of Perak

Supplementary Engagement of the Rajah of Perak contained in a letter addressed by His Majesty to the Agent Captain James Low.

After Compliments.

He who governs Perak, Paduka Sri Sultan Abdulla Mah Alum Shah desires to make known to his friend Captain James Low, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapaore, with relation to the subjects on which His Majesty and the Agent have already conferred.

* Sic.

First. That His Majesty will come down the river to stay at Kotah Isomoot, where he will build a fort of proper strength, and assign a competent number of soldiers for its protection and his own in order that all enemies and pirates may be kept at a distance and these men will be well armed and will be maintained by His Majesty, as a standing force to be at all times ready for defence and to obey his orders; and for the temporary accommodation of any British Officer who may be sent to visit him His Majesty will direct that a small house be built opposite to his own residence.

Second. His Majesty will keep a prow always ready to convey information of importance to Pulo Penang, and will further without delay take measures for opening a communication overland betwixt the Perak river and the Krean river and thence to Penang.

Third. The Laksamana and the Shahbunda will be forthwith sent down to reside at Quala Bidor at the spot where Rajah Hussein formerly posted himself and these two persons will by His Majesty's order erect a fort there and will collect the population and settle the country in that direction. And there

persons trading to Perak will be encouraged and protected, according to ancient custom.

Fourth. His Majesty will speedily seize and expel the head officers now residing at Koran, at Laroot, at Nong, at Singkang and at Burwas, who may have connected themselves with pirates or robbers, and will give warning to the people there that should they let pirates or robbers remain amongst them and should any English come there from Penang, the innocent might in that case suffer with the guilty.

Fifth. All traders to all parts of Perak will be cherished by His Majesty and their traffic will not be delayed, but every means will be afforded for a speedy settlement of accounts between buyer and seller, and His Majesty will coerce any of his subjects or others should their conduct require harsh measures to come to a speedy settlement of accounts with traders to Perak and to prevent their distressing such in any way.

Sixth. His Majesty the King of Perak will drive out of his country any person convicted of having carried off clandestinely or by force from any British Possession any subject of or person living under the British Government, and should any person so carried off be discovered His Majesty will detain that person and give information to the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang in order that such mischievous practices may be wholly prevented.

Seventh. When the country has again got settled His Majesty will direct his people to sow abundance of rice grain and rear as much poultry and as many cattle as possible; in order that his people and those residing under the British Government may receive mutual advantage.

Eighth. His Majesty intends to appoint and will appoint a properly qualified person to superintend

the Collection of duties on Exports—such as tin and other merchandize.

Should any trader, a subject of His Majesty, arrive at a British port and not be able to show a Port Clearance the same will be forfeited according to custom.

Ninth. His Majesty wishes to establish schools in his Country, and will be happy should his friend, Captain James Low, assist him by sending a well skilled schoolmaster from Pulo Penang, and should His Majesty send any child or children to Pulo Penang to be educated in all the requisite branches of knowledge, he hopes that such child or children will be favorably received and treated.

All these things His Majesty agrees to with the greatest satisfaction. This paper dated the 23rd day of the month Rubheea-ool-awal, on Wednesday, or the 25th day of October in the year 1826.

(A true translation or copy)

(Signed) James Low,
Political Agent.

Chop of Sultan Abdulah Mu-alam Shah King of Perak

Chop of the Raja Muda of Perak

Chop of the Raja Bindahara of Perak

Chop of the Orang Kaya Besar of Perak

Chop of the Orang Kaya Tummongong Sri Paduka Raja

Engagement of Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah Ma-alum Shah Son of the deceased Jummul Oolan, and Supreme Ruler over the Perak country, made and delivered to Captain James Low, Agent of the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca, and which is to be everlasting as the revolutions and endurance of the sun and moon.

The Sultan who governs the whole of the Perak Country and its dependencies has this day in the month and year herein specified given over and ceded to the Honble. the East India Company of England to be under its Government henceforward and for ever, the Pulo Dinding and the Islands of Pangkor, together with all and every one of the Islands which belonged of old and until this period to the Kings of Perak and which have been hitherto included within the Perak State, because the said islands afford safe abodes to the pirates and robbers who plunder and molest the traders on the coast and the inhabitants of the mainland, and effectually deprive them of the means of seeking subsistence, and as the King of Perak has not the power or means singly to drive these pirates away. For these reasons the King of Perak has of his own free will and pleasure ceded and given over as aforesaid to the Honble. the East India Company to be kept and governed by them and to be placed under any one of their Governments as they may think fit. To this deed as tokens of its validity have this day been put the great Seal or Chop of the Ruler of the Perak Country, Paduka Sri Sultan Abdulla Ma-alum Shah, together with the Chops of the Chief Ministers of His Majesty's Government. This Deed is made and written this

seventeenth day of Rubheea-ool-awul, Wednesday 1242 or the 18th day of October in the year 1826.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) James Low, Poll. Agent
to the Hon. the Govr. in Council
Prince of Wales Island.

Factory Records Straits Settlements, Vol. 139, pp. 97-101.

Fort Cornwallis The 2d November 1826.

Statement

of the Claims of the Rajah of Perak and certain persons his subjects on the Chow Phya of Ligore, commencing at the period of the Quedah invasion and carried up to the present time.

(Here follow details of the claims, amounting in all to Spanish Dollars 2530.25.)

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 101-113.

Fort Cornwallis The 2d November 1826.

Letter from Luang Pakdee to Sultan Abdullah, to the Raja Mooda and Tuanku Maha Mantri, dated 20th day of month Mohurrum 1241 year, or 2nd August 1825.

(After Compliments.)

The Phya has received the Raja's letter and understood its contents, as well as what Nakhoda Mahomed verbally communicated. When he, Nakhoda Mahomed, went from Perak, he said that Mr. Anderson would not have reached Perak yet: the Chow Phya now is apprehensive that the fulfilment of his good intentions towards the Raja of Perak and of exalting his name will be frustrated by the arrival of Mr. Anderson in Perak. The Chow Phya of Ligore is desirous of receiving the Raja of Perak under his protection and government, thereby augmenting his dignity and exalting his name beyond precedent and that he may rule his country in peace. The Chow Phya desires that he may be informed of the nature of of the subjects respecting which Mr. Anderson will have proceeded to Perak. Nakoda Mahomed will return in fifteen days to Quedah.

The Chow Phya has learned from Captain H. Burney that Mr. Anderson will effect the expulsion of Raja Hussain from Perak and that he will settle and fix the Birnam river as the mutual boundary of Salengore and Perak. The treaty betwixt the Chow Phya and Captain H. Burney has been alluded to in a former letter to the Rajah of Perak.

The Chow Phya desires that when the Raja of Perak, the Raja Mooda and the Tuanku Maha Muntri, together with the Laksamana are in consultation with Mr. Anderson, the Raja of Perak will act in accordance with the wishes of the Chow Phya of Ligore, as fully explained in the letter now sent. The Raja of Perak

must be particularly cautious not to commit any mistake in his consultations with the English Agent, and not to allow himself to be worsted in Council and argument. He will abstain from entering deeply into such subjects as may be proposed by Mr. Anderson for discussion. Let the Rajah learn more fully all points connected with pending subjects from Nakoda Mahomed and then send back Nakoda Mahomed quickly, with full information. A present has been sent with this letter; the Phya of Ligore received the the Kris transmitted by the Raja of Perak by the Bandahara.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) James Low Capt.
Political Agent.

Letter of Loung Pakdee to Sultan Abdullah, the Raja Muda and the Tuanku Maha Muntri, who form the Council for Perak affairs.

To these the following particulars are made known by order of the King of the World, beneath whose feet and slippers heads we prostrate, who is the Lord and Master, the Chow Phya Sri Masookarat of illustrious descent, resembling the glorious sun, whose power, wisdom and piety are conspicuous, who sits in state upon the High and splendid throne of the Empire of Ligore Seetamrat. That orders had been given by the Chow Phya that a large party of Siamese should proceed to Perak by land and water. The Raja Kechil Muda and the Orang Kaya besar* who were then in Queda and sitting in conference and saw this army and were astonished at its appearance exceeding everything hitherto known in Queda, observing that if they went to Salengore or elsewhere, no person could withstand them, the sight would be enough, *nor could any country near at hand oppose them,* or all countries in the vicinity; *And the Raja of Pulo Penang has sent Captain Henry Burney* an Englishman who is Envoy to the Rajah of Bengal with a present to give to the Somdet Phra Phoothee Chau Yo Hooa Paramesra Sri Ayoothaja, and Captain Burney met the Chow Phya at Queda and entered into fitting negociations agreeing that Perak was a country which the English did not wish to have any thing to say to in respect to its Government because it is one which is dependent on and pays the golden Flower to the King of Siam. And respecting the Raja of Salengore who had gone hostilely to Perak it was agreed that measures should be taken that he be ordered out of that Country. And the boundary of the Perak and Salengore countries has been fixed at Soongie Birnam, as heretofore. And the prows and gunpowder which the Raja of Salengore took from Che Hat the said Raja will repay, and Captain Burney also asked the Chow Phya not to

* Perak officers

go to attack Salengore. And Chow Phya of Ligore perceiving that Captain Burney had come to negociate in a fair and honorable way he therefore stopped the armament. All these matters have been noticed in a previous communication. And the Raja of Perak had sent Nakhoda Mahomed twice with letters to the Chow Phya, the contents of which have been understood, vizt. That Rajah Bandahara had died, and desiring that the Raja Kechil Muda should be made Raja Bandahara. But the Chow Phya who is exalted considers that it will be best that the Raja Kechil Muda should go to wait on the Chow Phya at Ligore to settle mattere fairly. He however *permits* the Raja Kechill to be Raja Bandahara, and the Orang
c Raja Makota Kaya Besar and Nakhoda Mahomed * will also go to wait on the Chow Phya for the sake of settling matters; for the Orang Kaya Besar is a man of sense and experience, And Chow Phya has much confidence in placing the Orang Kaya besar about the Raja of Perak, and trusts that the Perak Country will be governed in the same manner and according to the same rules as are other countries which give the Boonga Mas and perak to Siam. Whatever weighty matter may require to be decided upon it will be requisite that the Raja of Perak give intelligence first to the Chow Phya. And whoever does evil in the country and does not follow proper customs, let Orang Kaya besar forbid a repetition of it, and instruct people in their proper line of conduct. And let the Orang Kaya besar inspect the collection of the taxes and duties under the Raja of Perak, agreeably to custom. Again, the tin of Perak will not be exported by any other channel than the Perak river as heretofore, and the taxes collected in the same will remain with the Raja of Perak, And Nakhoda Mahomed vizt. Raja Makota will *collect* the taxes, along with the Orang Kaya besar, in order that the proceeds may be applied towards the Government of the Country.

And the Orang Ungrees have agreed that Raja Hussein shall leave the Perak Country, and it is therefore necessary that out posts should be established (at the place where the Raja resided) and that the same should be strengthened, and settled. And as the Laxamana is old, the Chow Phya directs that the Raja Makota shall assist and act along with him in every capacity connected with the duties of Laxamana for ever.

And it is requisite that there should be a strong post at the place were Raja Hussein had fortified himself for the purpose of co-operating with the Raja of Perak and bringing affairs to a settlement.

If any one shall act foolishly or enter into disputes and act contrary to the orders and customs of the Court of Siam in respect to its dependencies the said person shall be sent to the Chow Phya of Ligore to answer for his conduct and to get advice.

And the Chow Phya has sent Aloung Pakdee Songkhram Nai Khoot, Che Walam and Koon Lillecheen Nai Khoon thap Keeree womeen Nai Keen (!) who are Siamese officers and Sri Indra Dewa and Sri Lella Phulawar and Raja Sattrya Warna and Raja Dewa Sillia and Raja Awar Phalawan and Wan Visnoo. (!) who are all Siamese and Malayan officers and also three hundred men to accompany Raja Kechil Muda and the Orang Kaya Besar by land to Perak. And with the view that they may assist in the management of the Country, and behave well to those who behave well, and the contrary to those who behave amiss.

The Chow Phya intends to return from the Capital of Siam after having gone there. And he intends to wait on the King of Siam along with Captain H. Burney who is the Envoy from the Raja of Bengal, and also who bears presents. There the Chow Phya will make all affairs well known to the King of Siam,

according to their degree and importance, and to raise those who are to be raised as is usual at Siam and that the future may be full of delight. When the Chow Phya shall have returned he will send a letter to the Raja of Perak in order that whatever has been ordained at the Court of Siam may be carried into effect. The Chow Phya intends to assist the King of Perak, as a friend. Let not the Raja follow evil counsel in his Government, but be guided by the old custom and usage of Siam. In which case the Raja of Perak will in all future time remain in peace.

Dated Saturday 13th day of the Increase 10th month in the year of the fowl 1241st year answering to 14th October 1825.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) James Low Captain.
Political Agent.

Letter from Loung Phyaban of Queda to Sultan Abdulah of Perak and his Officers, Raja Muda and Raja Bandahara. Dated 12th Dalkhaida 1241 of Heijira or Sunday.....May 1825.

The Baginda of Quedah desires to acquaint Sultan Abdulah, Raja Muda and Raja Bandahara that he has received the letter brought by Panglima Cassim from them, informing him that Sultan Abdullah, Raja Kechil Tenga, Raja Muda and Raja Bandahara intend to reside at Rattan Allah, and that the Rajah has directed Orang Kaya besar, the Laxamanna, the Tumoongoong, Raja Makota, to reside at Rantan Panjang and his officers to fix themselves at Kota Lumbut with the view to the more speedy settlement of the country which is well considered. But the Raja of Perak must be devoted to the King of Siam and to his honorable officer the Chow Phya who governs Ligor.

With respect to the scarcity of rice in the Perak Country as noticed by the Raja, if the Raja will send the prows formerly brought by Nakhoda Mahomed, otherwise, Rajah Makota, to Queda he will receive a supply of rice.

With respect to the letter addressed by the Raja of Perak to the Chow Phya of Ligore, it will be forwarded to the capital of Siam to which place the Chow Phya has gone, and when a reply is returned it will be sent to Perak.

(A true translation)

(Signed) James Low, Captain
Political Agent.

Factory Recores, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 138-146.

Fort Cornwallis the 13th Novr. 1826.

Translation

of a letter from the King of Perak to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

After Compliments.

Whereas my friend has made known to me that in respect to this country of Perak. with the asssistance of my friend and the Honorable East India Company, an Agent was sent to Siam, and it is stated that the King of Siam has made an engagement, securing to me the Government of my own country, in the same manner as my forefathers governed it ; I am in consequence extremely pleased and gratified by the kind assistance of my friend in all respects, and the arrangement is agreeable to my own wishes.

With respect to this country of Perak and all its dependencies, it is my desire to govern it as King, agreeably to former custom, and I do not wish to have any connection with any Siamese or Malay Chiefs to the East or to the West, nor will I permit them to interfere further in the Government of this my Country of Perak, or any of its dependencies. And with respect to the tax of the Boonga Mas &ca. I will not sent it any more to the Siamese Rajah. or Salengore, or to any Malay Rajahs whatever for the time to come.

Moreover with respect to troops or Messengers from any of the Siamese or any Malay Rajahs, if only 20 or 30 persons even arrive, I will not receive them, nor permit them to interfere in any way in my affairs and I shall not send any armament or messengers to any Rajah of Siamese or Malayan States as above stated, for I require nothing from these Chiefs.

Any merchants or traders arriving from all countries who may choose to come and conduct themselves with propriety, and trade as in former times, shall meet with no obstructions or difficulties from me; they shall be at liberty to go and come, so long as they evince no bad designs towards this my Country. My resources are but limited at present, but it is my intention to repair the evils sustained by my country which was ruined by the Rajah of Quedah, the Raja of Siam, and the Raja of Salengore; and I am collecting all the Ryots and inhabitants of the Country, who fled to different parts in consequence of the disturbances created by the above named Chiefs.

But in the event of the King of Siam, or any inferior Siamese Chief, or the Rajah of Salengore or any other Chief of the Siamese or Malayan race, or any of the Chiefs in the Perak Country concerting together, or individually endeavouring to oppress me, and becoming enemies to my country, I rely upon my friend's assistance to support me and protect my country and subjects in every respect for the future.

The state of my country and the difficulties and troubles in which I have been involved, have been witnessed by, and fully explained to Captain James Low, who was the bearer of my friend's communication to me. These particulars I make known to my friend, with a sincere heart, of my own free will and accord, in order that all my friends may be fully aware of my sentiments.

Dated 16th Rabiul awul 1241 or 18th October 1826.

(A true translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 3d Novr. 1826.

Translation

of a letter from the King of Perak to the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Pinang.

After Compliments.

I beg to represent to my friend that with reference to my anxious desire to defend this my country of Perak and its dependencies from enemies, I am very deficient in funds and arms. I therefore send herewith my brother the Rajah Bandaharra and the Orang Kaya Besar as my agents to wait upon my friend, together with my son named Rajah Nga Petra, Datu Laxamana and Sri Deiva Rajah to make my friend's acquaintance. I have directed my agents the Rajah Bindahara and Orang Kaya Besar to beg assistance from my friend in money and arms, gunpowder and balls, to distribute amongst my people, to protect the Perak country in the interior as well as to seaward in case the Siamese should practise deceit and come to oppress me. The disposition and cunning of the Siamese my friend is no doubt well aware of, for my friend's understanding is perfect, and he well deliberates upon and considers all matters. Whatever may appear best in the judgment of my friend to secure the tranquillity of the Perak country, I request he will advise and assist me in sincerity, for I have entire confidence and trust that my friend will show favour towards me; for this country of Perak I regard as under the superintendence or in the safe keeping of my friend, and the Honble. English East India Company, who must protect it, and superintend the Government of it as it were an English state. My fidelity can never be diminished towards my friend and the English East India Company. I never can be disposed to place any confidence in any Siamese or Malay Rajahs. My trust only is in my friend and the Company, who I rely upon protecting this country of Perak, agreeably to the confidence that I have reposed.

I have therefore to inform my friend that the amount I require in the Perak country at present is first 10,000 Dollars—Muskets 400 with an adequate proportion of gun powder and balls. This even is not quite sufficient, but it is my opinion that if more is required I can request further assistance in these respects. With respect to the 10,000 Dollars, the 400 muskets and the powder and balls which I now request, I beg they may be delivered to the Raja Bindahara and the Orang Kaya Besar, who are the bearers of this letter, so that they may speedily return.

The 10,000 Dollars and the price of the muskets and ammunition which I now request, will be a debt on my part to my friend and my agents will execute an engagement accordingly to be retained by my friend. For all other matters I refer my friend to my Agents, and request he will settle every thing with them, and I will conform to my friend's desire. My brother the Rajah Bandahara and Son Rajah Nga Petra are but young men yet, and are but little experienced. I request my friend will therefore instruct them, so that their understanding may be improved.

I rely upon my friend's compliance with my wishes in all respects above noticed.

Dated 18th Rubiel awul or 20th October 1826.

(A true translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 3rd Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 173-178.

To the Rajah of Ligore 3 Novr. 1826.

Fort Cornwallis The 13th Novr. 1826.

To the Rajah of Ligore.

In my letter of the 5th October last I intimated to my friend my regret that he had not sooner replied to my former communication of December, as the arrival of a favorable answer would have prevented the necessity of my sending Captain Low to Perak to enquire into the truth of the reports sent me relative to the Siamese force having gone to that country. Captain Low has now returned, and as I find the Siamese left the country some time ago and the King is now in full possession of his authority, it is unnecessary for me to say more on that subject.

I have only now to call the particular attention of my friend to the articles of the treaty lately concluded at Bangkok relative to Perak, that the King is to rule his country his own way, that neither the English nor the Siamese are to send troops there or interfere with him. If the King chooses, of his own free will and accord, to send the Boongah Mas he may do so. If he chooses to receive a few people from my friend occasionally he may do so. Independent kings do in these things as they please. Quedah and Perak are neighbours and it is right and proper that friendship and good understanding should subsist between them. It is far from my wish or desire to interrupt it, but it becomes my duty under the Treaty to satisfy myself whether the King of Perak was willing to send the Boonga Mas or not or to admit Siamese into his country. I have accordingly ascertained that it is the wish of the King to be left entirely to himself: without either the English, the Siamese, the Malays or any other State meddling in his affairs.

I must sincerely therefore call on my friend to keep in his remembrance, that after this declaration of the sentiments of the King of Perak, any attempt on his part to interfere, whether by sending people there or by any other means, will undoubtedly be considered a breach of the late Treaty concluded between the British Government and His Majesty of Siam, and destroy the harmony and peace established thereby. In making this declaration I must at the same time assure my friend of my anxious desire to remain in peace and friendship with the neighbouring States of Ligore, and repeat at the same time that we have no desire to occupy Perak, or interfere in the affairs of the King and so long as the Treaty is duly fulfilled, so long as my friend abstains from sending any persons to Perak or exciting any interference, he may rest assured of the like forbearance on the part of the British Government. I have recommended to the King of Perak to cultivate friendship and good understanding with Ligore, as he will do with us. Various reports having been in circulation relative to preparations of prows in the Trang and Setul rivers, I directed Captain Burney in his late visit to Quedah to mention the circumstance to my friend's son, who immediately in the true spirit of friendship offered to give an order to any person we might wish to send to examine these rivers. I have accordingly availed myself of so liberal an offer and now send Captain Gottlieb to accompany the proper people to the Trang and other rivers.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

3d. November 1826.

To the Rajah of Perak
3 Nov. 1826.

To the Rajah of Perak.

Letter

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Pinang, Malacca and Singapore, to Sultan Abdulla, King of Perak.

I lose no time in acquainting my friend that I have just received a report of the dispatch of 40 men from Kedah to Perak, and as it is extremely desirable that my friend should abstain from any proceeding calculated to produce a rupture with the Rajah of Ligore at present, I would recommend his not behaving uncivilly to the party on their arrival, but to inform them firmly and resolutely that my friend does not wish them to stay. My friend may permit them however to remain 10 or 12 days and present [them] with a civil letter to the Rajah of Ligore; if they persist in remaining my friend will lose no time in reporting to me.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

Pinang
the 3rd Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139. pp. 151-155.

Fort Cornwallis The 13th November 1826.

To the Honorable

Robert Fullerton Esquire

Governor in Council

Honble. Sir,

* * * * * *

3. From the complexion of the correspondence which was confidentially entrusted to me by the King of Perak, I was enabled to predict what has since been fully verified, vizt. the occupation of that Country by a Siamese detachment immediately after the expulsion of Raja Hussein, in direct violation of the second article of Captain Burney's preliminary Treaty, making this Government, as I forefold, his Agents in securing quiet possession for a long period,* during which time his Emissaries have been using every effort to corrupt the principal officers of the King and have been exercising control over his Councils.

(* sic)

4. The reports of Mr. Caunter and Captain Low prove that as soon as the Raja of Ligore had succeeded, by the agency of this Government, in expelling Rajah Hussein, scaring away the reported large fleet of prows prepared to oppose him, fixing boundaries, and tying the hands of Salengore, and just as he quitted Quedah, to accompany Captain Burney to Bangkok under pretence of using his influence to ratify the Treaty, a party of about 300 men was dispatched to Perak, together with a certain number of Chiefs, to aid in conducting the affairs of Government, notwithstanding the stipulations of the Treaty so recently concluded with Captain Burney, and as you are aware, the party withdrew only two months ago, but not till after repeated remonstrances.

5. Amongst the Six Perak Chiefs who arrived here two days ago, is the "Orang Kaya Besar," frequently mentioned by Captain Burney as an Envoy from the King of Perak to the Rajah of Ligore, and he as well as the brother and nephew of the King will doubtless be able to afford you the most unequivocal information on other points, upon which Captain Burney has permitted himself to indulge in gratuitous speculations, when assuming to himself so unusual a privilege as commenting not only upon my proceedings as a Temporary Political Agent, but as Malay Translator to Government, which office I have held under three Governments with numerous recorded testimonials of approval from all, while neither publicly nor privately have they ever had occasion to notice a single error or even omission.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Translator to Government.

P. W. Island.
The 5th Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 159-167.

Fort Cornwallis The 13th Novr. 1826.

Minute by the President 7 Novr. 1826.

Minute by the President.

I have read and considered Captain Low's report on the affairs of Perak with attention. It is unnecessary to repeat the objects of his Mission and the consequent instructions given. They were clear and distinct Vizt. to explain to the King the nature of the protection that would be guaranteed to him by the Treaty with Siam! That his independence was admitted. That it rested with himself to send the Boonga Mas to Siam, or to admit and receive the Siamese from Ligor or not according to his own pleasure! That by the Treaty we were bound not to allow compulsion to be used!

Captain Low was moreover directed to obtain from the King, a declaration of his sentiments and decision on this point, in such shape as might be communicated to the Chief of Ligore, and for the plain and obvious purpose of at once putting an end to that course of chicanery and underhand intrigues, which we knew would be exerted to intimidate the King into apparent assent to the views of Ligore.

The avowed and no doubt the real sentiments of the King are such as might always have been anticipated, namely, that he should be left to himself independent entirely of Salengore and Siam. I regret, however, that Captain Low has not brought back a document, such as could prudently be sent to the Chief of Ligore, for however plainly and distinctly the real wishes of the King are expressed in the one intended for that purpose, the terms are such as would, if sent to Ligore, produce a degree of irritation which it is evidently our policy to prevent. It was not our desire to

excite or rather to increase the subsisting animosity; but to break all connection with as little offence to the Chief of Ligore as possible. Captain Low has taken from the King a document in the shape of an agreement, whereby he binds himself not to hold intercourse with the State of Ligore; not to send the Boonga Mas to Siam; and not to receive any person from Ligore. Such an Engagement was not required; partaking of the nature of a treaty it was not within the powers of Captain Low to conclude or within our own to confirm it. Its requisition formed no part of Captain Low's instructions; such indeed seems now to be objectionable, since however voluntarily given it is open to the imputation of contravening the spirit of Captain Burney's treaty at Bangkok, which professes to leave the King entirely free to act according to his own will and discretion. That a distinct Treaty of Protection in favor of Perak would tend to repress and put an end to all further attempts of the Chief of Ligore is indisputable, but how far such would now be consistent with the * article, I must leave to the decision of the Right Honorable the Governor General, on such explanation as Captain Burney may be enable to afford, as to the Siamese construction of that article.

An explanatory letter must now be addressed to the King, and the persons sent here must be made to understand, that such engagement was not required. That he is at full liberty to act as he pleases. That it is against compulsive measures only that we are to guard. As to the information conveyed by Captain Low, it is fully confirmatory of all previous reports. It is very clear that the moment the execution of Captain Burney's Treaty opened the way, the Siamese to the number of three hundred were sent from Ligore to Perak, in direct breach of that Treaty. That they remained there till lately. That partly by intimidation, partly by bribing the public officers and relations of the King, they succeeded in establishing an influence

there, sufficient to place him in a state of thraldom. That Captain Burney's Treaty at Quedah has thus opened the way for the furtherance of the views of the Chief of Ligore is therefore manifest.

The letters submitted by Captain Low fully evince the views entertained by the Chief of Ligore. The one intimating a contract with the Captain of a French ship for 20 large guns and 700 muskets demonstrates the ambitious projects of that Chief. The article of the Treaty concluded at Bangkok on the subject of Quedah, is exactly such as the Chief of Ligore would himself have dictated, and the one respecting Perak we may be well assured was only assented to under the conviction that the objects we had in view would be entirely defeated by the already established influence of Ligore, the provisional articles attached to the declaration of independence and so unthinkingly admitted by our Envoy, were evidently intended to cover the underhand course to be pursued for the continuance of that influence and final subjugation of Perak. In all this there is nothing surprising, such being the common practice of all Native States. That course of underhand deception has been counteracted by Captain Low's proceedings. And I can hardly believe that in opposition to the Treaty, the Chief of Ligore will venture on more open and decided means of obstructing the objects of the Treaty, nor can I believe that if he were so disposed that he would be supported by his Superior the King of Siam who has now so decided an interest in remaining at peace with the British Government.

I have already expressed my conviction of the expediency of direct communication with the Court of Siam as we may be assured that the representations of the Chief of Ligore will be far from correct. In noticing Mr. Anderson's letter of the 5th instant connected with this subject, I can only observe that that gentleman's view of the case is borne out by the

documents now produced, expressing at the same time my regret that public difference of opinion should be allowed to degenerate into personal altercation, and that the personal allusion to Mr. Anderson contained in para. 8 of Captain Burney's report of 19th September 1825 should have given rise to discussions in which the interests of Government are no way concerned.

Captain Low has brought from the King of Perak a grant of the island of Punker, one of the Dindings. The expediency of establishing a port there has undergone frequent discussion, and was on one occasion sanctioned by the Supreme Government. The advantages of a small establishment there for the prevention of piracy are generally admitted. I annex a report on that subject just received from Captain Campbell * of his Majesty's Ship Cyrene, but under present circumstances, the permanent occupation of any part of the Perak country might be objectionable; and it is doubtful whether such would not be contrary to the Article of the Treaty with the Netherlands Government of 17th March 1824. I am of opinion therefore that no steps should be taken on that matter without the sanction of the Honorable Court of Directors, unless the future perseverance of the Chief of Ligore in his views against Perak should render that measure indispensable.

* This report is not annexed to the minute

(Signed) R. Fullerton.

7th November 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 187-191.

Fort Cornwallis, The 23rd Novr. 1826.

Rajah of Perak 11 Nov. 1826.

Translation

of a letter from the King of Perak to the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor in Council, Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

When my friend on behalf of the Honorable East India Company sent an Agent, Captain James Low, to Perak. I directed my Chief, named Sri Adika Rajah, with the other Chiefs assembled to enter into an engagement with my friend's Agent, Captain James Low. Fifteen days after Captain Low quitted Perak, a messenger arrived from the interior and informed my Chief, Sri Adika Rajah, that a party of Siamese was coming to Perak, and that they had reached a place called Pulo Gambuy There is reported to be 30 men, the Chiefs named Naikot and Ambon Sack ; they stated their desire to meet me ; but I directed my people with my Chiefs the Tamungong and others to proceed and meet the Siamese, and prevent them from coming to meet me. I have directed them to return, and if they refuse, I shall have recourse to force, and there may perhaps be fighting.

Every thing respecting my circumstances and the state of my country I have made known to Captain James Low, my friend's agent, because I rely upon my friend with great sincerity, and expect that by means of the last engagement between my friend and me I shall not be overcome.

Dated 10th Rabialakhir 1242, or the 11th November 1826.

A true Translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Translator to Government.

Penang
The 16th November 1826.

To the Rajah of Ligor's Son at Quedah 20 Nov. 1826.

Letter from the Malay Translator to the son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of my friend's letter, of which Captain Gotlieb was the bearer, and to express the satisfaction of the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore with the proof of my friend's cordial disposition to meet his wishes, in permitting Captain Gotlieb to visit Setool and Lingow. Such conduct is the best evidence on my friend's part of his desire to preserve unimpaired the amicable relations now so happily established between the British and Siamese Governments.

While noticing this mark of my friend's inclination to preserve a good understanding with this Government, it is with with great regret that I have occasion to advert to a circumstance of an opposite tendency. The Honble. the Governor has just received intelligenee of another party of Siamese having again arrived in the interior of Perak. After so recently receiving a communication from the Rajah of Ligore, that directions had been sent to recall the party from Perak, and being informed of their return, the Honorable the Governor has received the late intelligence with surprise and regret. He cannot permit himself to doubt that the party which has lately arrived at Perak, has proceeded thither without any orders from the Rajah of Ligore, and measures will be taken for preventing their remaining. Their continuance at Perak would be a breach of [the] Treaty concluded between Captain Burney and the Rajah of Ligore last year, which has been confirmed also by the Siamese Government at Bangkok.

It is expected, therefore, that if my friend has been accessory to the dispatch of the party to Perak,

he will instantly recall them, by which disagreeable consequences may be avoided.

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang
the 20 Novr. 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 192-195.

Fort Cornwallis The 29th November 1826.

Rajah of Perak 27 Nov. 1826.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the King of Perak to the Honble. the Governor in Council of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I duly received on Sunday the 11th day of Rubealakhir the letter from my friend which was brought by Datu Sri Naru, which reached me in safety and I received agreeably to former custom. I opened the Seal and I unfolded the envelope, the letters glittered like the morning Stars and I understood its contents. But previously to the arrival of my friend's letter, the Siamese had arrived at Perak at a place called Pulo Gambier. The party consists of 30 men and the Chiefs are Nykot and Ambomsok! I accordingly dispatched my Mata to acquaint my friend the Siamese had expressed a desire to meet me, but not wishing to have a meeting with these Siamese, I directed my Chief the Orang Kaya Tamumgong and the Warriors and people all to assemble and ascend the river, where the Siamese are, to stop and not permit them to come and meet with me, for I am afraid of these Siamese. If they insist and use improper language, with the assistance of the Almighty and relying with confidence on my friend the Honorable the East India Company, I will fight with these Siamese, and they shall be considered my enemies. My friend is acquainted with my circumstances and respecting the country of Perak which were made fully known to my friend's agent Captain Low.

(Dated 12th Rabialakhir, 1241 or 13th November 1826.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) John Anderson

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang

27th November 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 202-204.

King of Perak 11th Dec. 1826.

Fort Cornwallis The 18th December 1826.

Translation of a letter from Sultan Abdulla King of Perak to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I beg to make known that I place very great trust and confidence on my friend and the Honble English East India Company, which will continue so long as the sun and moon shall endure.

When I dispatched my letter by the Mata, acknowledging the receipt of my friend's letter by Datu Sri Naru, I had not received the particulars relative to the party of Siamese who had arrived, but shortly after the departure of Datu Sri Naru, I consulted with the Jang de pertuan Muda, the Rajah Muda and Sultan Muda. The Jang de pertuan offered to proceed up the river and stop the Siamese, and I accordingly provided him with such arms as I had. He reached a place called Sayong, intending to drive away the Siamese, but they said they had brought a letter from the Rajah of Ligore. The Jang de pertuan Mooda thereupon sent Tu Maharaja with a letter explaining the particulars to me relative to the arrival of the Siamese. I replied to the letter of the Jang de pertuan Mooda and desired them to wait ten or fifteen days.

My friend is fully acquainted with all my circumstances and having great reliance upon him, I request my friend the Governor of Pulo Pinang, Singapore and Malacca will send an Agent to Perak who will consult and decide what is best to be done in all respects.

Dated 22d Rabialakhir or 23d November 1826.

(A true translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 11th December 1826.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 195-201.

Fort Cornwallis The 7th December 1826.

Letter

To the King of Perak 1 Dec. 1826.

from the Honorable the Governor to the King of Perak.

I have duly received my friend's letter of the 12th of Rabialakhir and shall be very sorry to hear that my friend has been under the necessity of engaging in hostility with the Siamese party which lately proceeded to Perak, of whose intended recall a report reached me some days ago.

It is my anxious desire to preserve peace and a friendly understanding amongst all parties and no efforts have been spared by me to effect this desirable object. My friend will entirely misunderstand the intentions of the negotiations which have passed between this Government and Siam in respect to Perak if he supposes that a breach between my friend and the Rajah of Ligore is desired. My desire has been only to secure my friend's independence and liberation from all control either by Siam or Salengore, while he is free to preserve commercial and friendly relations with these as well as with other States.

The British Government seeks for no exclusive privileges and desires to abstain from any control over my friend's affairs, either politically or commercially. A free intercourse and trade is all that is expected.

Under these circumstances my friend will no doubt see the propriety of my declining to meet his wishes for a supply of money and arms. My Agent, Captain Low, was not instructed to hold out any expectations on such points. A compliance with my friend's wishes in this respect, would be construed by the Siamese Government as a desire on the part of the British Government to secure some undue advantages

or influence over Perak, contrary to the spirit of the Treaty and adverse to the oft repeated declarations of this Government.

It will be satisfactory to me however to afford every facility towards a free and unrestricted commercial communication between Perak and the British Settlements in the Straits, while I trust that my friend being now through the intervention of the English relieved from all interference, will be enabled speedily to repair the evils which the Perak Country has suffered for some years past.

My friend will, no doubt, be pleased to learn, that by the spontaneous liberality of the Honorable East India Company the trade of this port has for the present been relieved from Import and Export duties.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

Pinang
The 1st December 1826.

Son of the Ligore Rajah at Quedah 5 Dec. 1826.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah to the Malay Translator.

(After Compliments.)

Whereas my friend was directed by the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Pinang, Singapore and Malacca, to address a letter to me, I have to acquaint him that I have duly received it by the Commander of the Cruizer, and understood its contents. With respect to what is stated relative to the Governor being surprised that a party of Siamese again proceeded to Perak, I have to inform him, that when the Chow Pya of Ligore recalled the party of Siamese who were residing at Perak, the King of Perak sent some presents, and now the Chow Pya of Ligore has sent five Siamese with presents to the Rajah of Perak in return, and they have been directed not to remain but to return, so that there may be no deviation from the Treaty. Let not my friend therefore entertain further distrust in the matter—written on Friday.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Trans. to Govt.

Pinang
The 5th December 1826.

Malay Translator to the Son of the Rajah of Ligore 7th Dec. 1826.

Letter from the Malay Translator to the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of my friend's letter dated Friday last the 1st instant, and to acquaint you that the King of Perak is at liberty to receive the party of Siamese or not as he pleases, but if they go into the Perak Country or remain there without the consent of the King, those who sent them must abide by the consequences.

Being desirous of maintaining friendship, letters have been written accordingly, but if the authorities of Quedah and Ligore will persist contrary to the injunctions in sending people to Perak this Government cannot answer for any thing that may happen.

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 7th December 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Sec. Dept. No. 10.

Fort William 5th Jany. 1827.

Captain Burney.

Calcutta, 29th December 1826.

To G. Swinton Esqr.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter under date the 22d inst., transmitting to me a despatch from the Secretary to the Government of Prince of Wales Island dated 11th ulto., and calling upon me for any observations which I may have to offer on the engagement executed by Captain Low with the State of Perak as connected with the subject of my negotiations at the Court of Siam, and the Treaty concluded by me. Having attentively perused the several documents comprised in that dispatch, I now beg leave to submit the following observations for the consideration of His Excellency the Vice President in Council.

2. The 14th Article of the Treaty concluded by me with the Siamese Ministers, inasmuch as it stipulates that the Raja of Perak shall govern his country according to his own will, leaves it certainly at his discretion to enter into any engagement with us or with the Siamese provided only that such engagement do not lead to the chance of either party sending at any time any force to go and molest, attack or disturb Perak. It is but fair however to ask, what would the Government of Prince of Wales Island have said, had an agent from the Rajah of Ligor gone to Perak and obtained an engagement from the Chief there binding him in the same manner as Captain Low has bound him, not to hold any communication or intercourse with the British Government, or with any of its officers, which may

or can have reference to political subjects (to distinguish between which and other subjects few Native Chiefs, I fear, are competent) and not to receive any British Officers or Envoys or permit them to enter into his country for the purpose of arranging political matter, or interfering in any way in the affairs or administration of Perak. There is no question that the Rajah of Ligor could have obtained such an engagement by the employment of very much the same kind of means as we have used, that is, by offering the Perak Chief protection against Salengore and his factious subjects, and by holding out to him a hope of a pecuniary loan, for the purpose of soliciting which I observe, a deputation is sent to Penang by the Chief of Perak at the close of Captain Low's negotiations.

3. Captain Low's Treaty with the State of Perak contains no clause for subjecting the same to the ratification or rejection of the Supreme Government and the 3d. Article engages that His Highness of Perak shall receive the assistance of the British in expelling from his country any Siamese or Malays, who may enter the Perak territory with political views, or for the purpose of interfering in any way with the Government of His Highness, that is, I conceive, guarantees the possessions of the Chief of Perak. However easy such an obligation may prove to us, yet I fear one important question may arise, and I now submit it as having occurred to me some months ago, upon reference to the 42d and 43d clauses of the 33d Geo. III. whether such a Treaty as that concluded by Captain Low, unless in a case of sudden emergency or immediate danger, may not be a violation of law, beyond the power of the Penang Government to enter into or of the Supreme Government to ratify, without express orders from the Home authorities.

4. I solicit the permission of his Excellency the the Vice President in Council to recapitulate here a

short review of the history of our relations with Perak. At the time the Ex-King of Queda received orders from Siam to bring Perak under subjection he informed the Penang Government through his vakeels, that Perak had received a Chief from the Royal Family of Siam, and that it had rendered the *Boonga Mas* to Siam until the revolution in that kingdom caused by the Burmese invasion. Upon this representation the British Government conceived that the pretensions of Siam over Perak were founded in justice and ancient rights and the Chief of the latter was repeatedly advised by the Penang Government, which even deputed a Mission to him in the year 1818 chiefly for this purpose, to acknowledge the supremacy of Siam and transmit to her the *Boonga Mas*. The late Chief of Perak however rejected this advice, declaring that the paramount authority of Siam had never extended over his country, and that that was the first demand of a *Boonga Mas* ever made from Perak by Siam. Through the Military means however obtained by the Ex-King of Queda from the Penang Government, his forces laid waste the territory of Perak and in 1818 secured the Chief. The Queda authorities removed him and appointed a Regency, which transmitted the *Boonga Mas* to Siam, and fully acknowledged the supremacy of that State. In the year 1822 after the Rajah of Ligore had taken possession of Queda he requested permission to send a part of his force to Perak through the harbour of Penang which permission the Penang Government readily granted, still believing the correctness of the representation received from the Ex-King of Queda's Vakeels in 1814 of Perak being a rightful tributary of Siam. In the same year the Rajah of Salengore who had himself over-run Perak in 1806, made a sudden attack upon the Siamese party at Perak and not only put it to flight, but established a nephew Tuanku Hussain, near the mouth of the Perak river, from which he controlled the Government and trade of the Country, levying a duty for the benefit of Salengore upon the

exportation of tin, the principal produce of Perak. In the beginning of last year, during my Mission along the Coast of Queda to Poongah, I ascertained and reported to the Penang Government that the *Bandahara* of Perak had appealed to the Rajah of Ligore for assistance against Salengore and Rajah Hussain, that another application had been very lately made accompanied with an offer to send the *Boonga Mas* to Siam and that the Rajah of Ligore was then fitting out a large fleet of boats to attack the Rajah of Salengore, as well as to occupy the country of Perak. But referring to the unadvisable consequences likely to result from the Siamese occupying those two States and driving out their Malay inhabitants, I submitted at the same time to the Penang Government my opinion that the best and most easy mode of preventing the Rajah of Ligore's projected attack upon Salengore would be, by the Penang Government at once prohibiting him and declaring its intention of protecting Salengore, and that I believed such a declaration might be communicated to the Rajah in a manner calculated not only to stop him but to prevent an actual breach between us. As soon as the Rajah of Ligore had assembled at Queda the whole of his armament in May last year, the Honble. the Governor of Penang refused him a passage through the harbour of Penang and made such a communication to His Highness through Mr. Maingy, as induced him to pause. His Highness, as I had anticipated, proved himself to be too well acquainted with our means and character to venture to pass his fleet Southward contrary to our wishes. He had in some measure been stopped and 70 of his boats had been sent back to Trang, before I returned from Calcutta to Penang in July. At this time it is necessary to observe, the Penang Government did not conceive itself authorised to prevent the Raja of Ligore from sending any of his armament or force to Perak, by the passage *outside* of Penang or *overland*. The Raja still had a

large body of men and 114 boats at Queda; and upon my visiting him I found a deputation at Queda from Perak, consisting of the nephew of the Chief of Perak and one of his principal nobles or *Orang Kaya besar*, who told me themselves, that they had come to the Raja to solicit succour against Salengore and Tuanku Hussain. I was assured also that the Rajah had a large force above Queda ready to be sent overland to Perak. I hope I persuaded him of the evil consequences likely to result from his sending this force to Perak and I drew him into a provisional engagement binding him to dismiss his armament and not to send any of it by sea or land to Salengore or Perak or to keep any force in the latter country. There has been some misconception respecting the 2nd Article of that Treaty. The Penang Government assumed that it pledged the Raja of Ligore against all interference whatever with Perak. His Highness never meant any such thing. I distinctly showed in my letter of the 1st of August, which accompanied the Treaty, that the Rajah of Ligore considered Perak as a Siamese Tributary. That I had denied it but had only been able to waive the discussion, without settling the matter either way. I could never have prevailed upon him, and indeed he did not possess the power to resign by Treaty all Siamese claim of supremacy and interference with respect to Perak in the manner assumed and acted upon by the Penang Government. I was only able to prevent the force which he had prepared, from proceeding overland to that Country and destroying it, and to secure to ourselves the right which we before neither possessed nor were prepared to exercise, of attacking any Siamese armament or hostile force that we may find to the Southward of Penang. I conceived it would be the future object of our negociations at Perak and Bangkok to devise means for precluding Siamese interference in the many other forms in which it might be attempted. These sentiments were submitted by me to the Honble. the

Letter to the Hon. the Govr. dated 19 Sept. 1825. See Straits Sett. vol. 103 (copied).

Governor of Penang in September last year, when I expressed my regret at the limited character of the arrangements executed by our negotiator at Perak, and all my expectations that the Rajah of Ligore would contrive to maintain his influence at Perak by other agency than by that of unequivocal open force, have been fulfilled. He sent shortly after he received accounts of the proceedings of the Agent of the Penang Government at Perak, a party of Siamese and Malays, which was far too small to have exerted any influence at Perak if the real state of the case had not been as I had declared, and as Captain Low's report has now fully proved, that the Rajah of Perak is weak, his Chiefs divided, and his subjects intriguing and open to bribery. When I heard of this party being at Perak, which I did at Bangkok, I remonstrated very warmly against it to the Rajah of Ligore and charged him with a breach of the Provisional Treaty, but he maintained that it was no breach, that he had never intended to deprive himself of the right of maintaining his influence at Perak by friendly means, or to do more than to agree not to send to Perak *any force with hostile Intentions*, or to keep such there; that what he had now sent was only a temporary deputation which he had a right to send, and no armament or hostile force, and that it consisted only of 20 Siamese besides Malays, principally inhabitants of Perak. It is extremely hazardous to receive a Malay's account of numbers. The Siamese party at Perak has been has been variously reported to amount from 80 to 300 men including the Perak and Malay renegades, and Captain Low I observe takes the largest estimate terming the whole "an armed force of 300 troops." It is well known that all persons in the Malay States carry arms, and it would be madness indeed to travel across the Peninsula of Malacca, or to visit the Perak Country at any time without such means of defence. *Troops* is a very inapplicable term, as I personally know, to be given to such a party

which was sent from Ligore to Perak. The expression in the 2d Article of the Treaty of Queda is "*Angkat-an*" in the Malay and "*K ng Thab*" in the Siamese language, and I translated it at the time into "*a force by land or water.*" But I must own that "*a force with hostile intentions*" was understood by both the Raja and myself, the 3d Article of the Treaty continuing to the Siamese a "*free intercourse* with Perak," and some doubt may therefore be raised, whether His Highness's last party was sent in violation of his engagement. It should not be forgotten too, that the Treaty of Queda was only a temporary expedient to remove the evil which was then impending from the armament actually collected by the Rajah. The whole of my negotiations at Queda were directed to keep things quiet to the Eastward, while the Supreme Government was engaged in Ava, and until the disposition of the Siamese Court could be ascertained. I explained to His Highness however at Bangkok, that the Penang Government would most probably consider his deputation to Perak as a breach of his Treaty, and send a force to expel it, and the moment the Raja received a communication to the same effect from the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, which he did not until after the signing of the Treaty between the Siamese Ministers and myself he sent down an order directing the party to withdraw from Perak. It did so as Captain Low reports on the 7th of last September. There was a party of Siamese actually at Perak when the Treaty of Queda was concluded between the Raja of Ligore and myself.* The phrase in the 2d Article, that no Siamese force shall "settle in Perak" was directed to prevent the Rajah of Ligore from keeping any force in that country and provoking another attack from Salengore. Before the conclusion of the Treaty of Queda the Penang Government had no ground for insisting upon the removal of any Siamese party from Perak, and as the Honble. the

Note. Marsden in his Malay Dictionary gives the following definitions of the word Angkaton: expedition by sea or land; preparations for war; levies; forces; array; procession.

Note. The Agent to Perak in his report dated 15th Sept. 1825 says that this party left Perak "about six weeks ago." The Queda Treaty was concluded on the 21st of July.

Minute by the Hon. the Govr. dated 24th of Sept. 1825. See S. S. vol. 103. (copied).

Governor justly observed at the time "had the Chief of Ligore proceeded by sea at a proper distance from the Island we could have no ground for interference and the same reasoning would apply to an attack by land beyond our control." My negotiations at Queda gave the Penang Government these grounds of interference and it is therefore surely hard to declare now, that my Treaty at Queda has opened the way for the furtherance of the views of the Chief of Ligore.

5. Before leaving Penang in September 1825 I submitted to the Honble. the Governor my apprehensions that the Agent who had proceeded to Perak and Salengore had not raised up such a barrier against Siamese conquest to the Southward as might afford us a right and title wherewith to oppose the Siamese in case the Court of Siam refused to ratify my Agreement with the Rajah of Ligore. I regretted also that the Agent to Perak had not brought away the originals of the letters, which had been written to the Chief of Perak under the orders of the Rajah of Ligore subsequently to the Treaty of Queda, as I conceived that the possession of those papers would give us considerable advantage in any future discussion with His Highness. At Bangkok, by reference to paras. 156, 194, 196 and 199 of the Journal of my Mission, it will be seen, I ascertained that the Siamese claimed no such ancient right of supremacy over Perak as the Penang Government had been led to imagine and I fully succeeded, and principally from my own personal knowledge, in destroying the grounds upon which they pretended to found their first interference with that Country, namely that the late Rajah of Perak had voluntarily placed himself under Siam. These were surely important points to gain, and that the Penang Government, at the time of my quitting Penang doubted the practicability of my gaining even so much may be inferred from one part of my instructions which stated "it may be hoped

Minute of the Hon. the Govr. of Penang dated the 24th Sept. 1825.

that if our negotiator cannot succeed in entirely rescuing Perak from all subjugation, that it will hereafter be confined to the presentation of the *Boonga Mas* only, and preclude entirely all further interference with that State." I disproved the right of Siam to this Boonga Mas and destroyed her main pretext for interfering with Perak. There was then a third point to gain, and this I found it impossible to accomplish at Bangkok. The Siamese Ministers maintained that the present Rajah of Perak and his principal Chiefs desired to be connected with Siam. I had no means of disproving this pretext in the face of numerous letters and communications from the Rajah of Perak and his Chiefs and in the face of the Perak Mission which, as it was pressed upon my notice, I had myself seen at Queda whilst there in July 1825. Although I gave every credit to the statements contained in the report from the Penang Agent to Perak, I could not produce the same belief in the minds of the Siamese Ministers. His Treaty with Perak they said, would have provided against the continuance of Siamese connexion if the Rajah had been desirous of such a change; and the authenticity of the copies of the Raja of Ligore's letters to Perak were all denied. That I went as far as prudence warranted in endeavouring to prevent every future pretext for Siamese interference with Perak, will I hope be evident from what passed between the Phra Khlang and myself on the 30th May, as recorded in the 194 para. of my Journal. I had however repeatedly declared that the British Government did not intend to occupy Perak or fetter the independence of its Chief and this declaration was dexterously brought against me by the Siamese Ministers to obtain my acquiescence to a clause, that if the Chief of Perak desired to maintain his connexion with Siam, the British Government would not prevent his doing so.

6. Next came the question how were the sentiments of the Chief of Perak to be satisfactorily

ascertained by the Siamese unless the British Government would permit them to send a deputation to the Country, a measure which I was told I had assured the Raja of Ligore the Penang Government considered to be the same as that of sending a hostile force to Perak and a positive infraction of the 2d Article of the Treaty of Queda. I called upon the Siamese Ministers to name the number of which they would desire such a deputation to consist, and they stated 4 or 500, but after much discussion I reduced it to 40 or 50, the number mentioned in the 14th Article of the Treaty, and one I conceived too limited to be capable of overawing the Government of Perak. From my omitting to record all these points in my Journal the Penang Government is disposed to believe that I admitted this deputation "unthinkingly." But had I recorded every thing that passed between the Siamese Ministers and myself, I should have made my Journal ten times more voluminous than it unfortunately is already.

7. I was satisfied that if the Penang Government only assured the Raja of Perak protection against Salengore he would break off all connexion with Siam, and the moment therefore I returned to Penang, I suggested to the Honorable the Governor, the expediency of deputing an Officer simply to obtain a document from the Rajah of Perak declaring his wish and determination to be, not to maintain any such intercourse with the Siamese Court or Rajah of Ligore as they had asserted at Bangkok. I subsequently volunteered to proceed myself to Perak and obtain such a document, observing that I knew exactly what was necessary, but the Honble. the Governor decided that it was then too late, and stated that he would give Captain Low such precise instructions as would preclude all chance of misconception. Captain Low appears to have acted entirely upon his view of the Treaty of Queda, without recollecting that that engagement merged in the Treaty subsequently

concluded by me with the Siamese Ministers at Bangkok.

8. Captain Low reports that the Raja of Perak was "a mere pageant in the hands of a Siamese faction," and that Chief himself solicits "a party of British troops to be stationed in his country," and declares, that he "cannot restore peace and order to his Government without the interposition and aid of the British." If some such proceedings as those undertaken by Captain Low had been adopted in Sept. 1825, my negotiations at Bangkok regarding Perak would have been short and easy indeed.

9. I before found that the Rajah of Ligor's partizans at Perak had given him a thorough knowledge of every thing said and done by the agent who visited Perak last year, and I have* of money and guns and warlike stores from the Penang Government. All these acts and proceedings are of course calculated to excite the dissatisfaction and distrust of the Siamese Court. When also it is considered that they have been undertaken with respect to a Chief, whose whole annual income is estimated to amount only to 20,000 Dollars, I submit that the ablest opponent to the Penang Government, for taking the whole of the Malayan Peninsula under its protection, could not have shown more clearly and decidedly than what Captain Low has done, the petty, complicated and unprofitable transactions which the adoption of such a plan will entail upon the British Government, and the impossibility of seeing before we have actually embarked in such a system of interference with the Malay Peninsula States how far it may draw us on.

* sic.

10. Although the Siamese, no doubt, will be dissatisfied with the proceedings of our Agent to Perak, I do not conceive that there is the smallest chance of their venturing into any quarrel with us respecting this matter; and the route overland from

Quedah or Ligor to Perak is so difficult, that they must look to the sea, where a single cruizer could stop them, to pass any large force to Perak or to support one there. I think however that a simple declaration of our determination to maintain the independence of the Raja of Perak, and to prevent all political interference by the Raja of Ligor or the Siamese, will be sufficient for all the purposes worthy our notice, and I would now beg to submit that the originals of the three letters which were written to Perak after the Treaty of Queda under the orders of the Raja of Ligor (and which originals I observe Captain Low has now brought to Penang) should be transmitted to Bangkok, with an address from the Secretary to the Supreme Government to the Six Ministers, apprizing them that the circumstance of the Rajah of Ligor having allowed himself to send such communications to the Raja of Perak, after signing a regular Treaty with me, had decided this Government upon extending to the Chief of Perak the protection which he has solicited, and upon preventing the Siamese from all future interference or political intercourse with his country.

11. The statement of the Rajah of Ligor having engaged with a French ship for a supply of 20 guns and 1700 muskets within 6 months is an old story, which was fabricated for the mere purpose of overawing the Rajah of Perak in a letter dated so far back as September last year. I was at Ligor after that date and satisfied myself at Bangkok of the utter groundlessness of such a story.

12. I now solicit the permission of His Excellency the Vice President in Council to submit a few observations respecting our relations with the Siamese. Having concluded with that extraordinary people a treaty, which appears to me to secure every object that is worthy the notice of the British Government and which it is manifestly the interest of the Siamese

Government to keep and respect, I feel a natural and I hope a laudable anxiety to see the relations which I have been the instrument of establishing, duly maintained and confirmed. On this service, as the Penang Government has expressed so decidedly its dissatisfaction at my proceeding, I cannot indulge a hope of being employed under its orders. But I earnestly entreat the Supreme Government, if that high authority shall determine to ratify the Treaty concluded by me, to order such measures as may not entirely leave the duty of seeing this Treaty maintained, confirmed and improved, in the hands of any officer to whom every alleged breach of it on the part of the Siamese will be a matter of triumph. I have already had occasion to bring to the notice of the Government the local feelings and prepossessions which exist at Prince of Wales Island as connected with the Ex-King of Queda, and the Siamese once ventured last year to make an appeal on this point to the Government of Penang, but I only involved myself in a most unpleasant personal discussion, to which I regret to see some of the enclosures in the dispatch from the Penang Government again refer. The British Government has surely nothing to fear from the Siamese, and all it can reasonably require from them is some share for its subjects in the really* relations. By a reference to the 4th Article of the first draft of the Treaty proposed to me by the Siamese ministers (see Appendix No. 32 of my Journal), it will appear that they desired me to engage that "the Government of Siam shall not look "to the small Provinces, but shall look for friendship "to the Countries of Europe and Bengal more than to "other places. The Countries of Europe and Bengal "shall not look to the small provinces, but shall look "for friendship to the Government of Siam more than "to other places." The object of this article was to avoid all intercourse with the Government of Prince of Wales Island and it is not necessary for me to

(* sic: ? friendly.

disclose all the opinions and feelings expressed at Bangkok with regard to that Government. But I was much embarrassed for some time with this subject, which the Court of Siam seriously urged and at last I evaded it by assuring the ministers that as the treaty would be made in the name of the Governor General and the King of Siam all discussions and communications respecting its provisions would naturally continue to pass between these two Supreme Authorities.

13. I beg to close this letter by citing what Mr. Crawfurd has said on the subject of the Siamese annexing Queda to their Empire.

Letter to the Sec. to Govt. in the Poll. Dept. of 12th July 1822.

"Should the Siamese nation become our immediate neighbours, I may safely venture to assert from what I have seen of it, that its power is just as little dangerous as that of the Malays. Their neighbourhood may even be attended with some advantage, which we could not derive from the poverty of the latter and their still more barbarous and irregular form of Government. The Siamese by being brought into closer relation with us will become better acquainted with our charges and power, will be rendered more dependent upon our friendship and good offices, and by being finally brought to appreciate our forbearance and moderation, will learn to repose a more complete confidence in us than their jealousy and ignorance will at present admit of." Such a state of things will improve and tend to lay open the commercial resources which this fertile and extensive territory is undoubtedly capable of affording.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain.

14. P. S. I beg to return herewith the original dispatch transmitted in your letter of the 22d inst.

15. I trust it will not be considered disrespectful in me to solicit the particular notice of

His Excellency the Vice President in Council to the circumstances of Captain Gotlieb's deputation from Penang to Queda in the hope of being able to disprove the tales of warlike preparations in the Queda views, with which the fears and hopes of reward of secret spies* and it was finally arranged that he should apply for a *native confidential servant* to be sent, as mentioned in my letter to the Secretary to the Penang Government, dated 19th October last. What the Chief afterwards applied for I know not, as I see no copy of his letter in the Penang dispatches. But Captain Gotlieb the commander of a Ship, although now acting assistant Master Attendant at Penang, is sent to the young Chief and one article of this Agent's instructions is to obtain information respecting the Trang River, which is stated to be very desirable, as that river bends to within one or two marches from the Capital of Ligor. Of course His Highness will view any attempt to make an examination of it with the same feelings as the Government of England would display at seeing the French or any other Government in Europe, send a commander of a vessel to make a survey of the river Thames.

* sic. Some words are probably omitted.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344. No. 13.

Fort William 12th January 1827.

Calcutta 4th January 1827.

To G. Swinton Esqr.

Secretary to Government.

Sir,

May I request you will do me the honor to bring the following circumstances under the notice of His Excellency the Vice President in Council.

Some of the Calcutta papers have published a strange account of the Treaty concluded by me with the Siamese Court on the 20th of June last, and the account is calculated not merely to injure my public character, but to mislead public officers who may not as yet have seen the original Treaty, or a correct transcript of it. It is stated that the King of Queda was a prisoner with the Siamese and that besides releasing him and accomplishing other points a Treaty, concluded by me at Bangkok on the 15th of May which was ratified on the 17th, contains the following engagements.

That every British born subject carrying with him a certificate as such, and being licensed to trade as merchant or mariner, shall have leave to transact his own business without a licensed agent or broker to control his transactions, that all such persons who desire it shall have passports to trade and travel throughout the Siamese dominions, except in the district of the newly discovered silver mines at Menam Noi, but that no natives of the Burmese or Pegu Country altho' subjects of England, shall under penalty of death put their foot on the Siamese Territories nor shall any descendants of those people or of any other Asiatic connections, on any pretext or under any colour of protection, be suffered to land in the dominions of the King of Siam.

The above account first appeared in the Calcutta John Bull of the 11th of Sept. last year, apparently from a correspondent at Amherst Town, and as it resembles in some degree the curious draft of a treaty proposed to me by the Siamese Ministers on the 19th of April, I believe it to be the production of some person who had seen a part of my Journal which had been about that time forwarded overland from Bangkok. But the Singapore Chronicle, omitting only the story of the King of Queda having been a prisoner in Siam, publishes this very account of the Treaty as an original article, although evidently copied from the Calcutta papers, and some of these again republish it last month from that Chronicle, without perceiving the identity. The facts upon which the 10th clause of my Treaty was founded, of which the above is so mischievous a version are these. The Siamese Court have no objection to as many British born subjects and descendants of Europeans or Burmese or Peguers going to their sea ports by sea as may wish it, but they refused to permit such persons to travel into the interior and through the Siamese dominions. They would allow none but "Asiatic subjects of the British Government not being Burmese, Peguers, or descendants of Europeans" to travel overland or by means of the rivers from the Anglo-Burmese territory into Siam, or from Penang into the provinces of lower Siam. I could not insist upon the Siamese Ministers throwing open the interior of their dominions. They said that British born subjects or Europeans and their descendants can trade with Siam by means of shipping and that such persons want to travel overland and into the interior for the purpose of making maps and surveys of the country, they said that it is a standing law of Siam which prohibits the subjects of Ava from admission into any Siamese Country, on any pretence, and that as a great portion of the Burmese Country still belongs to Ava, the inhabitants of which might try

to gain admission into Siam for hostile purposes with our Burmese subjects, no Burmese or Peguers could, for the present, a short time only, I hope, be admitted into the Siamese dominions overland or by means of the rivers. They agreed that all Chinese, Malays and natives of the Coast of Coromandel and of Hindostan, (not being descendants of Europeans) by which class of persons indeed all the ancient valuable trade between Mergui and Siam used to be conducted, should be so admitted, but even these the Siamese Ministers requested might be furnished with pass ports from our officers at Martaban, Tavoy and Ye. The Siamese Government had undoubtedly a right to say whom it would admit into the interior of its dominions. After repeated discussion with the Siamese Ministers I was obliged to accept as much as they would concede, and to leave to the operation of time and of a better acquaintance with us to remove the Siamese prejudices on this point. There is however in the Treaty concluded by me no such penalty of death, or indeed any punishment for unprivileged persons putting their foot on or landing in the Siamese territories. If there is any invidiousness in the distinction British born subjects as well as Anglo-Indians are included in it.

With respect to vessels and with respect to merchants and traders going to the Siamese ports by sea, no distinction whatever is made in the Treaty. All British subjects whether Asiatic or European, or their descendants or connections are equally at liberty to enter on the same fixed scale of duties, and to all are extended the same privileges of "buying and selling with freedom and facility and without the intervention of any other person between them and the inhabitants of Siam." There is nothing also about being licensed to trade as a merchant or mariner, or about the silver mines at Menam Noi, or about a British born subject carrying with him a certificate as such. It is no wonder that the Singapore merchants, judging, I presume,

from the accounts of the Treaty published in the Calcutta papers and again in the Singapore Chronicle, are stated to be of the opinion that my Treaty will be of no advantage.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney, Capt.
Envoy to Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations. vol. 344.

Fort William 12th January 1827.

No. 14.

To George Swinton Esqr.

Secretary to Government

Sir,

* * * * * *

I trust Government will observe that I have endeavoured to regulate the whole of my disbursements according to the strictest economy as directed in the 6th para. of your letter of instructions of the 13th May 1825. The only point respecting which it may be necessary for me to tender explanation is the excess shown in the amount of presents purchased and delivered by me to the King and Court of Siam. But my residence at Bangkok having been more protracted than I had anticipated, and that residence entailing upon the King and Wangna a monthly expense, I conceived that I should be justified in procuring and offering to them some more presents than what the Government of Prince of Wales Island had sanctioned in Mr. Secretary Cuppage's letter of the 12th September 1825.

The amount of presents submitted for the sanction of the Supreme Government in my letter to Mr. Secretary Stirling of the 26th May 1825 was S. Rs. 27,501, but that amount was exclusive of the Broad Cloth which were proposed to be received from the Honble. Company's stores but were afterwards purchased at Penang, nor did it include the presents to be procured and given in the names of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island and of the Resident at Singapore.

The account of presents made and received in return stands as follows :—

Purchased at Calcutta, see letter to Mr. Secretary Stirling from Capt. Burney dated 30 May 1825		24,790.10. 6
Do. at Penang see letter from Mr. Acting Secretary Cuppage to Captain Burney of 12th Sept. 1825	3,738.—.—	
Do. subsequently	1,869. 7.—	
Sh. Drs.	5,407. 7.—	
or Sa. Rs. @ 210-8 per 100 Spanish Dollars Received in return from the King and Court of Siam various productions of Siam which realized at Penang about Sa. Rs.	19,500.—.—	11,384. 6.—
Received from the King and Wangna of Siam, exclusive of rice &ca. for the Escort and followers a monthly allowance on account of table expenses of the Envoy as carried to account Drs.	1,550.76 or	
Sa. Rs.	3,264. 5.—	
Deduct...		22,764. 5.—
Differences Sa. Rs.		13,411. 5. 6

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Capt.
Envoy to Siam.

Calcutta
5th January 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 23rd February 1827.

No. 1.

To George Swinton Esqre.

Secretary to the Government

Secret and Political Department

Fort William.

Sect. Dept.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated 22d ultimo, forwarding the Treaty concluded by Captain Burney with His Majesty the King of Siam, and to return to you that instrument duly signed, sealed and ratified by the Right Honorable Governor General.

From the Govt. of Prince of Wales Island 11 Sept. 1826. (not copied).

From Capt. Burney dated 19 June. (copied from Home Series, misc. 669).

Do. Do. Do. dated Septr. (copied from Do.)

Do. Do. Do. dated 9 Oct. (copied from Beng. S. & Pol. 342.)

From the Sec. Prince of Wales Island dated 11 Nov. (not copied—contains duplicate matter.)

From Captain Burney dated 26 December. (? 29 Dec.—copied from Beng. S. & Pol. 344.)

2. The Governor General will seize the earliest moment to record his sentiments at length on the principal points comprized in the voluminous reports submitted to Captain Burney regarding his proceedings at the Court of Siam, and on the questions of policy discussed in the papers and correspondence received from the Government of Prince of Wales Island of dates as per margin. In the meantime I am instructed to state that Lord Amherst entirely concurs with the Vice President in Council in highly commending the zeal, address, temper and ability displayed by the Envoy during his negotiations with the Government of Siam. The Governor General further considers that the results of Captain Burney's Mission have been in the main successful, as placing the political and commercial relations of the British Nation with the State of Siam on a decidedly improved footing, and at all events the Treaty negotiated by that officer has in his Lordship's judgment, secured every advantage which could have been expected under the instructions furnished to him by the Supreme Government.

3. The Governor General approves and sanctions the manner in which it is proposed to employ Captain Burney's services at Mergui, after he shall have effected the exchange of the ratified copies of the Treaty at Quedah, when his functions as Envoy to Siam will of course cease.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Stirling
Deputy Secretary to the Govt.
In Attendance on the
Governor General.

Agra 17th January 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 6-10.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 8th Feb. 1827.

Superintendent of Province Wellesley.

To John Anderson Esqre.

Secretary to Government

Fort Cornwallis.

Extract

Sir,

I have now the honor to submit for the purpose of being laid before the Honorable the Governor in Council a detailed account connected with the Proceedings adverted to in my letter to the Officer Commanding the Troops dated 24th Instant.

Having received information of the numbers, the plans and positions of the pirates on the banks of the Kurow River, I determined from many considerations to proceed and if possible drive them out. And I trust that the manner in which they were afterwards dispersed will prove a salutary lesson to the Natives in our neighbourhood, and induce them to adopt more settled habits. The following were my chief reasons for proceeding in person. I was desirous of ascertaining under whose influence the pirates acted, of preventing them holding intercourse with the people of the Krean and other Districts of Wellesley Province, and of inspiring with greater confidence the petty traders of the coast, who have been lately so cruelly injured by these lawless bands.

Having driven the pirates out of their first and second positions I advanced to Oudin's Compong, their chief position. Here they declined making a stand, and Oudin being hard pressed chose to give himself up; but it was merely to gain time to carry off his papers. These last I had previously seized,

and as I was not desirous of detaining him as a prisoner but of driving him out of Kurow, I pretended belief in the sincerity of his offer to go and bring in one or two of the Chief Pirates. I still however continued the pursuit of the party until I found that Oudin and they had fairly fled amongst the jungle of the interior, in which to follow them was impracticable.

Oudin in so far as I could discover, had 100 armed men under him, about 80 of these were active pirates or robbers. Their plan of operation will be apparent from the depositions taken before me of persons seized at Kurow, and from what will transpire on the examination of the prisoners sent by me to the Police Office.

Their system independent of the positive evils it inflicts threatens by the manner in which its emissaries are diffused throughout the fixed population of the Island and Wellesley Province, most materially to operate against the efficiency of the Police Establishments of this Presidency.

With the dispersion of the Nakoda Oudin and his party and their expulsion from Kurow, the Siamese influence will in a great measure cease in that quarter, and I need not advert to the advantage which the southern part of Wellesley Province will derive from that circumstance.

That the Rajah of Ligore has for many years past supported and countenanced the Chief of a piratical horde is a fact which cannot be reconciled to his constant professions of amity towards the British Government. It would be in vain to argue that he must have been ignorant of the culpability of Nakoda Oudin, for the Quedah petty traders have suffered greatly by the depredations of his people, and we are only left to suppose that His Highness deemed it a

sure and secret mode of annoying a Government which he dared not to provoke by overt acts.

Oudin openly disavowed, in my presence and that of my detachment, the authority of the King of Perak his legitimate Prince. confessing that he owed allegiance only to the Rajah of Ligore.

* * * * * *

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) James Low Captn.
Acting Superintendent
Wellesley Province.

Province Wellesley
30th January 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 2 February 1827.

No. 4.

Calcutta, January 31st 1827.

To Geo. Swinton Esqr.

Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to enclose a letter in the original Portuguese language with a translation of the same, addressed to me when quitting Bangkok by Mr Carlos de Silveira, who was deputed by the Government of Goa as an Envoy to the Court of Siam about the year 1820, and appointed Portuguese Consul at Bangkok; in which office he continued to act until it was annulled in 1822, by an order from the Constitutional Government set up for a time at Goa.

Mr. Crawfurd, in the Journal of his Mission, had occasion to make the same acknowledgment of the good offices of Mr. Silveira towards the British Government as I have submitted in the second part of my report, in which I have detailed circumstances that have led this gentleman to solicit the friendly interposition of this Government in his favour. I can bear testimony to the accuracy of the representation contained in the enclosed letter with respect to his present situation: But the peculiar hardship of his case, I found, is, that the Government of Macao, under the late Minister there, contracted a debt to the Siamese Court, which will not permit Mr. Silveira or his secretary to quit the country until such debt be discharged. His situation is certainly highly injurious to the European character.

When receiving Mr. Silveira's letter I let him clearly understand, that I could not pledge my Government to notice it, but that I would submit it with such declarations as were demanded by my gratitude for the obliging attentions and zealous assistance which

I had experienced from him, and that it must be left entirely to the consideration of the Supreme Government to determine whether the intimate friendly relations subsisting between our two nations would authorize his representation being brought to the notice of his Government, with my testimony in support of its general accuracy, and in favour of his character and conduct whilst these came under my observation.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Capt.
Envoy to Siam.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 2 February 1827

No. 5.

Translation.

To Captain H. Burney.

Sir,

It is with extreme affliction that I employ my pen to address you on the present occasion, and to trespass on the valuable time which I know is incessantly devoted to affairs of the highest importance; but Sir, you will excuse the inconvenience which I may cause in order that through your means I may obtain some alleviation of the misfortune in which I find myself plunged in Siam, and I entertain the hope that you will not refuse me a few moment's attention to listen to my statement.

You, Sir, during the period your commission occasioned your stay at Bangkok, and from the intimacy with which you honored me, must be well aware of my present circumstances, although I have myself communicated to you for your fuller information, the purpose for which I came hither deputed by the Vice Roy of Goa in 1820, the powers with which I was invested by that Government, and the solemnity with which I presented myself here to conduct negotiations of great moment, and afterwards to reside at the Court of Bangkok, as Consul General of the Kingdom of Siam, having obtained the establishment of a factory; and also the circumstance of my having received in 1823, a communication, comprized in a few lines, and in terms not very courteous, from the provisional Government installed by the disorders of a revolution which brought in its train prodigious evils to the Portuguese nation in all its states and dominions, and which was subsequently not only abolished, but the oppositionists to the former legitimate Government were covered with shame and dishonor.

Although that administration reassumed its ancient form of three hundred and more years since the first Vice Roy of India, yet the instructions which I received in 1825 were in unison with those of the Revolutionary Government, notwithstanding my having submitted upwards of 20 official dispatches to the representative of the King my master, in the capital of Portuguese India, in which I shewed by reasoning the most conclusive, how dishonorable it was to the Portuguese nation, and also to me as its representative in this quarter (so recognized by the Sovereign and people of the King of Siam, as you Sir may have observed from the documents which I laid before you) to remain here in a state of abandonment since the receipt of a notice to withdraw from my representative situation without any assistance to enable me to depart from a country where there is no navigation, or the least communication with the Portuguese Dominions, which might facilitate the means of my obtaining a convenient passage, and where I have to release myself from some engagements originating in the forsaken condition to which the Government of Goa thought proper to reduce me, even without addressing an official communication* considerations of civility to the Ruler of the Country with whom we had renewed the closest friendship, a circumstance which excited the greatest indignation of the Siamese against me, and redoubled the cause of my affliction, so that I am incumbent with an affair of the greatest difficulty, and what is still worse without any resources from any quarter, and finally being exhausted of all, even of patience, constancy and resignation, allow me, Sir, to have recourse to your influence as a respectable member of the British nation united to the Portuguese by the strictest ties of friendship in the hope that you will address the Governor of Goa as an eye witness of my present condition, not only to convince him of the truth of the several statements submitted by me, but also what you have yourself seen, and thus to excite

* sic. A line seems to be omitted here.

those sentiments of honor which I am persuaded are inseparable from all those who are deemed worthy of the confidence of the Sovereign Power in the exercise of public functions, and in the meanwhile you will save the Portuguese from the disgrace of being the first to set the example of abandoning in so shameful a manner one of their public Functionaries (as in my case) in a semibarbarous country : a fatal example this, which must tend to degrade in the eyes of the Siamese (so circumspect in regard to this point) all Christian Nations whom they regard as one family, and they imagine that all would be equally capable of a similar act of inhumanity.

I have been guilty of no crime, nor committed the slightest fault which can merit in the smallest degree the displeasure of my superiors as you must be aware, Sir, from my correspondence, (which I shewed you) with the Governments of Goa and Macao, and therefore I do not think that I deserve this treatment from the Government of Goa. You, Sir, will in no way risk your honor by the exertions which you may make in my favour, even to the extent of soliciting the exalted interposition of the Governor General of British India, apprizing His Excellency of all the circumstances which have occurred, should His Excellency deign from motives of benevolence to intercede in any manner in my behalf ; as I am persuaded that a representation from His Excellency will make a great impression on the mind of the Governor of Goa, and induce him to adopt a more liberal resolution in regard to me, namely to extricate me from the embarrassed situation in which I am placed, and afford me the means of quitting this place, or to remit to me the amount of the accounts which I have regularly transmitted every year to the Royal Exchequer for the state of India through the intervention of the Governor General of Goa.

For this great favour which I earnestly entreat of

you, Sir, you will find me, on all occasions, disposed to devote every moment of my existence to meet your wishes, and promote the interests of the British Nation.

I have &c.

(Signed) Carlos M. da Silveira

Bangkok the 25th
June 1826.

(A true Translation)

(Sd.) W. Foresty—Translator.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141. pp. 38-43.

Fort Cornwallis The 8th Feb. 1827.

Minute of the President.

Having attentively read and considered Captain Low's Report of his proceedings in the Kurow River, I now record the observations which occur to me on the subject. The repeated and unceasing attacks made by pirates on our trading prows, the murdering and wounding, and the capture and carrying into slavery of our inhabitants pursuing their trading pursuits even from the shores of the Island, will be found fully displayed in the various depositions made at the Police Office within these few years. These acts of atrocity having of late much increased, while every attempt to suppress them by the use of boats in the open sea has failed, it became a matter of necessity to root out from their strongholds the gang [of] banditti which had established themselves in the Kurow River within the Perak Territory and little more than 20 miles south of our own boundary. The necessary instructions were given in consequence to Captain Low to make arrangements for the surprise and dispersion of the band. His report displays the success that has attended his measures and I propose that the sense entertained of his services on the occasion be duly noticed, and as encouragement to the troops employed under him, that the amount value of the captured property be distributed amongst the party under his command.

The report of Captain Low and the documents submitted therewith sufficiently show the origin and main source of these aggressions. Nakoda Oudin the Chief of the pirates, is an emissary and servant of the Chief of Ligore deriving his authority and means of annoyance from him, and has been evidently placed there to forward the insidious and underhand views

of that Chief against the State of Perak as well as to distress in every way short of open violence the inhabitants of the Island. These papers clearly evince the underhand means resorted to by that Chief and the necessity of guarding ourselves against progressive encroachments, made under cover of unceasing declarations of friendship. They moreover show in strong colours what must be the result of the extension of Siamese dominion over the Malay States. To suppress piracy by application of force in the open sea against small boats whose motions defy pursuit over flats and into Creeks to which our cruizers cannot find access is quite impossible. Such can only be done by the exercise of our influence over the States amongst whom we are placed by inducing them to aid in the expulsion of these disturbers and destroyers of all trade; that assistance we may safely rely on from most on this coast, knowing as they do we entertain no views of hostility against them, on the contrary that the maintenance of their independence, peace and tranquillity is essential to the great objects for which those Settlements are maintained, for the promotion and extension of our trade. As it appears that all the rivers between the Krean and Perak have occasionally been and are liable to become receptacles for Pirates it becomes necessary to use our influence with the King of that Country, now independent, to aid in the expulsion of all pirates that may hereafter seek shelter there; I propose therefore that a letter be addressed to him respecting Captain Low's proceedings, inviting him to aid and assist our officers engaged in the destruction of pirates by establishing at the most convenient stations near the mouth of the river persons in whom he can confide, with sufficient force to prevent any doubtful characters establishing themselves in his country and, provided Captain Low is satisfied that confidence may be reposed in the parties so placed, I see no objection to occasional supply of Arms and

Ammunition to be used exclusively in pursuit of this object and defence when required. The substance of this letter should moreover be communicated to the Agents of the Chief of Perak. It might also be necessary to intimate to the Chief of Ligore the knowledge we possess of his underhand proceedings. Considering however the return of Captain Burney with the final decision of the Supreme Government on Siamese affairs, may be expected at an early period, the communication may, for the present, be deferred.

(Signed) R. Fullerton.

1st February 1827.

Fort Cornwallis The 15th Feb. 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 51-53.

Translation

of a Letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments)

May my friend be informed that I have returned from the capital (Bangkok) and have arrived at Kedah. On my arrival I found a letter which had been forwarded to Kedah with presents from the Right Honble. Lord Amherst Governor of Bengal, together with a letter from my friend which I duly received according to the rules of friendship and sincere regard.

Moreover with respect to the treaty which Captain Burney made at the capital he took away with him one Copy, promising to return to Quedah and exchange it for another which was sealed at the Capital. The Treaty duly sealed at the Capital I have brought with me, and whenever Captain Burney returns to Pulo Penang from Bengal with the Treaty which he took to be sealed at Bengal, I shall beg to be informed and I will bring the sealed Treaty to be exchanged agreeably to the engagement with Captain Burney. When the Treaty has been duly ratified, the affairs of the Quedah Country and the commercial intercourse will be conducted and established according to the terms of that Treaty between the Siamese and English, so that friendship will be promoted and may never cease as long as the Earth and Sky remain.

I am now waiting for the intelligence of Captain Burney's return from Bengal and I now send Koon Aksoon and Nai Neem to purchase some goods at Pulo Penang and I beg my friend to indulgently permit

them to return immediately so that no delay may take place.

Dated 1st of 2nd. Month.

Pinang
The 7th February 1827.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 23rd February 1827.

No. 2.

George Swinton Esqre.

Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I beg leave to submit to His Excellency the Vice President in Council the expediency of explaining to the Siamese Chief at Queda, through the Government of Prince of Wales Island, the Cause which has prevented my returning to Queda so soon as the Treaty concluded with the Siamese Ministers had engaged me. For this purpose I have prepared the enclosed draft of a letter, with accompanying translation in the Siamese language, that, if approved, the same may be forwarded.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain

Envoy to Siam.

Calcutta
10th February 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 23rd February 1827.

No. 3.

Letter from Captain H. Burney to Phra Phakdi Borirak Governor of Queda. Calcutta 12th day of the 3rd. Month, 8th February 1827.

I have to acquaint my friend that the Right Honble. the Governor General having proceeded on a visit into the interior of the country, many days' journey from Calcutta, I have not been able to see my friend so soon as the Treaty concluded between Their Excellencies the Ministers at Bangkok and myself had engaged me to return to Queda. The Treaty and the letters from His Majesty the King of Siam and from Chao Phya Phra Klang have been forwarded to the Governor General, and the moment His Lordship's answer is received I shall leave Bengal. I hope to see my friend by the end of the 4th month, and beg my friend will in the mean time communicate this information to his father, Chao Phya Ligor, with my best respects.

(Signed) H. Burney.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 57-58.

Fort Cornwallis 26th Feb. 1827.

To Rajah of Ligore.

Letter

from the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca to the Rajah of Ligore.

I have duly received my friend's letter by his Envoys Koon Aksorn and Nai Niem, and congratulate him upon his safe return to his own country. It is satisfactory to me to be informed that my friend is determined to adhere strictly and faithfully to the terms of the Treaty concluded by Captain Burney at the Capital. That Officer is expected immediately from Bengal, and I shall not fail to give my friend the earliest intimation of his arrival.

(Signed) R. Fullerton.
Governor.

Pinang
The 20th February 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 104-107.

Extracts.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

To J. Anderson Esqre.
Secretary to Government
P. W. Island.

Sir,

Captain Burney being about to leave the Presidency with the Treaty with Siam ratified by the Supreme Government, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Vice President in Council to transmit to you for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council, the enclosed copies of the instructions with which he has been furnished and of the other documents referred to therein.

* * * * * *

4. With regard to the removal of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah from Pinang to Malacca, His Excellency the Vice President in Council trusts that immediate steps will be taken for carrying this desirable object into effect.

5. Relatively to the arrangement mentioned in the 25th paragraph of the instructions to Captain Burney I am directed to observe that it is by no means intended to preclude any direct communication not of a political nature when deemed necessary between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and the Court of Siam.

6. Captain Burney has been directed to communicate with the Government of Prince of Wales Island, previously to proceeding to Queda to exchange the copies of the Treaty and the Honorable the Governor in Council is requested to facilitate the means of his repairing thither and of subsequently joining the situation to which he has been appointed on the Tenasserim Coast.

* * * * * *

I have &c.

Fort William
23d February 1827.

(Sd.) Geo. Swinton
Secy. to the Govt.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 109-144.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

To Captain H. Burney

Envoy to Siam.

Sir,

Your several dispatches.....having been under the consideration of Government, I am now directed to convey to you the following observations and instructions of His Lordship the Vice President in Council, with respect to the several points which they embrace.

2. In reviewing the general tenor of your proceedings in the discharge of the important duties confided to your charge, as Envoy to the Court of Siam, the Vice President in Council is happy to express his entire satisfaction with your conduct during the period of your residence at Bangkok and considers you to have accomplished in a manner highly creditable to your judgment, talent and address, every object of your Mission, which under the circumstances detailed in your very clear and able Reports above acknowledged, the Siamese Court could be expected to concede.

3. The primary object of the Mission from the Supreme Government to the Court of Siam being, His Excellency in Council observes, of a complimentary and conciliatory nature, the manner in which the ceremonial of your introduction to the King and Wangna was arranged, and in which you obtained the audiences of leave and the address from His Majesty to the Governor General, as well as the visits which you paid to the Princes and great Ministers to whom it had not previously been the custom for foreign Envoys to be introduced, is entirely approved. His Excellency in Council also has not failed to notice with sentiments of much satisfaction the great

advantage of your conferring directly with the Privy Council of the Kingdom, and discussing and settling at meetings with it the several points of negociation. The temper and prudence likewise which distinguished your proceedings during a considerable interval of time when the Siamese Court, through ignorance and jealousy, was induced to lend an ear to the absurd rumours propagated by some mischievous and interested individuals and to entertain serious doubts of our good faith and intentions, are highly commended by His Lordship in Council. The favorable impression produced thereby on the mind of His Siamese Majesty and his Ministers contributed no doubt, to the apparently cordial and friendly feelings with which the Mission finally received its leave.

4. With respect to that part of your negociations that related to the hostilities in which we were then engaged with the State of Ava, His Excellency in Council has adverted to the situation in which you were placed at Bangkok in finding, that whilst your Instructions from the Supreme Government interdicted any application to the Government of Siam for the co-operation of its troops with the British Army, circumstances had induced Major General Sir A. Campbell to invite the Siamese Court to fulfil its promises and direct the advance of an auxiliary force, and His Lordship in Council approves the endeavours which under the supposed exigency you made on that occasion to promote what you understood to be the wishes of the British Commander. His Lordship in Council also commends the pains which you took to afford the Siamese Ministers full explanations with respect to the nature and progress of the Burmese War, and to prevail on them to send accredited Agents to meet the British Commissioners in Ava and Pegue for the purpose of settling at the Seat of War all points connected with the conduct of it and relating to mutual boundaries.

5. The caution and firmness with which you met the demands of the Siamese Court for the unconditional surrender of Tavoy and Martaban and the care which you took to avoid holding out any expectation of our ceding to the Government of Siam any portion of our acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim are entirely approved.

6. The success of your negotiations with the Siamese Court for the release and return of 1400 Burmese and Pegue Captives who had been carried off by the Siamese Detachments from the Province of Tenasserim, after that country had come into our possession, is peculiarly gratifying to His Excellency in Council, who has viewed the persevering exertions employed by you to effect that humane and desirable object with much approbation. The security and confidence which our new Burman Subjects on that Coast now feel as reported by Mr. Maingy, the Civil Commissioner, in consequence of their countrymen having been thus rescued from the hands of their cruel and inveterate enemies, are the pleasing fruits of your success, which cannot fail to redound to the fame and reputation of the British Government.

7. With respect to the Treaty concluded with the Government of Siam. I am directed to observe that it has received the sanction and approbation of Government. The first article being a general engagement of mutual friendship and forbearance requires no remark. The Second is considered to contain prudent and judicious provisions for the settlement of any cause of complaint on either side, and the concluding stipulation for declaring the object for which any armament may be collected by one party in the vicinity of the other must operate advantageously in the future intercourse between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and the Raja of Ligore. The third Article establishes as reasonable a plan as could have been expected from the Siamese for the settlement of all doubts

regarding mutual boundaries. The fourth Article appears to provide in a very judicious manner for the adjustment of all questions regarding refugees from either state, leaving it optional with either party to surrender the refugee. The Vice President in Council concurs with you in opinion that the conclusion of any direct stipulation with such a Government as that of Siam for the mutual surrender of refugees might have proved a source of embarrassment to us.

8. With respect to the commercial objects entrusted to your negociation as provided for by the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th Articles of the Treaty and the special commercial agreement annexed to it, I am directed to observe that you appear to have collected much useful information respecting the details of the existing system of levying duties and regulating foreign trade at Bangkok, and His Excellency in Council approves of the manner in which you avail yourself of that information to urge and persuade the Siamese Ministers to define and fix as far as possible the charges and regulations applicable to British trade and shipping. The terms by which in lieu of numerous and arbitrary exactions one simple impost is in future to be levied on the commerce at Bangkok vizt. 1,700 Ticals per each Siamese fathom in breadth on a vessel carrying an import cargo, and 1,500 Ticals per fathom, if she visit Siam in ballast, are entirely approved. His Excellency in Council is induced to hope that as the whole Treaty was originally written and discussed with the Siamese in their language, and is one which is so obviously the interest of the King of Siam to maintain, the several provisions in favor of our merchants and shipping will be generally respected and fulfilled by the Siamese Government.

9. The conditions on which the Siamese Monarch has offered in the 7th and 8th Articles of the Treaty to permit the residence of British Subjects in his

territories and to admit our vessels to trade with other ports of the Kingdom in addition to those hitherto visited for that purpose, do not it is true hold out much encouragement to European Merchants, but more perhaps could not be expected for the present from the jealous fears of that Court.

10. The Siamese Government has objected to Europeans, Descendants of Europeans, Burmese or Peguers travelling overland and into the interior of the Siamese Dominions. On this point I am directed to remark that with advertence to what you have stated in explanation thereof in your letter of the 4th January last, His Excellency in Council is satisfied that you could not have insisted upon the Siamese throwing open the interior of their Dominions contrary to their own inclination. His Lordship in Council trusts that for the present the terms of the Treaty will suffice, as it admits Europeans and their descendants into the Siamese Ports by Sea on an improved footing and permits all other Asiatic Subjects of the British Government not being Burmese or Peguers to travel into the interior of Siam from our Settlements in the Straits of Malacca and the newly acquired possessions on the Tenasserim Coast.

11. The Vice President in Council has not failed to notice the advantage of the stipulation in regard to the clandestine introduction of opium into the territories of Siam contrary to its established laws. By that stipulation the penalty is confined to confiscation only instead of a fine as heretofore of eight times the weight of the article in silver or forfeiture of the whole of the property of the trader and sometimes even of his life. The Vice President in Council trusts that the above and other provisions in the Treaty will give every practicable degree of freedom and facility to our trade both in upper and lower Siam, and in time effect a great improvement in our commercial relations with those countries.

12. Relatively to that part of your negociations which concern the local interests of our Settlements in the Straits of Malacca, the Vice President in Council regrets that any difference of opinion should have prevailed between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and yourself, but is happy to observe that, that Authority has done justice "to the "difficulty with which you had to contend, from the "impracticable character of the people with whom "you had to deal, the necessity of yielding some "points for the attainment of others, and the manifest "expediency of coming to some sort of under-"standing instead of quitting the Siamese Court if "not on actually hostile at least on unfriendly "terms."

13. With respect to the 13th Article of the Treaty the Vice President in Council deems it due to you to declare that he is by no means surprised at your failure to accomplish by negociation the restoration of the Ex King of Queda, a point to to which the Government of Prince of Wales Island, in particular, attached so much importance, since independently of your not being empowered to tender to the Siamese an equivalent for the profit which they derive from the direct occupation of that country, the pride and resentment of the Chief officers of the Siamese Court were evidently strongly excited against the Ex Raja by his clandestine overtures to their inveterate enemy the Burmese in 1824, while residing under our protection at Penang. When the Supreme Government expressed its hope that the Siamese Monarch might be induced to reinstate the Ex-King of Queda in his hereditary dominions, it never contemplated the accomplishment of this object but by means of a reconciliation to be effected through the good offices of the British Government between him and the Court of Siam. The employment of any menace therefore, on your part, to enforce compliance with our wishes in favor of the Ex King

of Quedah would have entirely changed the ground of negotiation and have been at variance with the conciliatory objects of your Mission to the Siamese Court.

14. The Vice President in Council however concurs entirely in the sentiments of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island expressed in his Minute of the 24th September 1825 both as to the necessity of coming to a final decision on one way or other, with respect to the question of the restoration of the Ex King of Queda and as to the certainty that no confidence or cordiality can subsist between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and its Siamese neighbours so long as that individual continues to reside at Penang. His Excellency in Council therefore is happy to find that the Honble. the Governor of that Settlement admits the propriety under existing circumstances of using every endeavour to persuade the King of Quedah to remove to Malacca or some place distant from the immediate scene of his former authority and the Vice President in Council hopes that immediate steps will be taken for carrying this desirable object into effect. In the opinion of His Excellency in Council the residence of the Ex King at Penang must tend to keep alive the hopes, the passions and resentment of himself and retainers, and furnish to the Siamese not unreasonable grounds for distrust and jealousy of our intentions with regard to Queda, thus exposing to the hazard of interruption the friendly relations and understanding which it has been the object of the Supreme Government to establish with the state of Siam. In requiring the King of Queda to remove from Penang it by no means follows that he thereby personally renounces his rights. On the contrary he may be informed that the British Government will not lose sight of the interests of its old friend and ally in the event of an opening hereafter occurring at any time for affecting some general

arrangement with the Siamese including his restoration to his ancient dominion. It is indispensable however, that he should be distinctly cautioned not to cherish any hope or expectation that the British Government will employ in his behalf any other means than that of fair and friendly negociation with the Siamese, and any hesitation on his part to remove to such place of asylum within our territories as considerations of policy may induce us to point out to him, must naturally indispose us to take further interest in his concerns. He must be warned also that so long as he and his family continue to enjoy a stipend and protection from the British Government, he must consider himself bound to abandon all designs and secret machinations calculated in any manner to molest or give umbrage to the Siamese and tending thereby to disturb the friendship and harmony established between that nation and ourselves.

15. Adverting to the strong and repeated injunctions of the Honorable the Court of Directors against any extension of our relations to the Eastward, His Excellency the Vice President in Council approves of your having cautiously avoided to commit your Government to ulterior procedures by any of your acts at Bangkok. Should the circumstance of our more intimate connection with the Malay Peninsula consequent on our establishment at Malacca or any other causes, induce any change in the views of the Home Authorities in that respect, ample opportunities may hereafter offer for extending protection of the British Government over the States of Kalentan and Tringano and thereby relieving them from Siamese supremacy in the manner desired by the Government of Prince of Wales Island. In the mean time the Vice President in Council persuades himself that the trade and intercourse of British Subjects with the two petty States above mentioned will be sufficiently secured by the 12th Article of the Treaty.

16. The Vice President in Council is fully aware of the peculiarity of your situation at Bangkok in negociating with respect to the State of Perak under the circumstances of the Raja and Chiefs of that Country having been in such close communication with the Raja of Ligore, and a strong party, headed by the heir apparent of Perak, being devoted to the interests of the Siamese. His Lordship in Council however is happy to observe that the Government of P. W. Island considered the 14th Article of the Treaty so far satisfactory as it confirms the preliminary agreement made by you with the Raja of Ligore in respect to Perak. With respect to the recent proceedings of Captain Low, subsequently deputed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island to that State, His Excellency in Council agrees in opinion with the Honorable the Government of Penang, that that officer had exceeded his powers and had moreover interfered in the affairs of Perak to an extent which was never contemplated or desired. An Extract of your letter of the 29th December last, relative to Perak will be transmitted to the Government of P. W. Island and His Excellency in Council entertains a hope that a Document may still be procured from the Rajah of Perak in the manner suggested by you in the 7th Paragraph of your letter above adverted to, and be forwarded to the Rajah of Ligore and Court of Siam for the purpose of satisfying them of the desire of the Perak Chief to discontinue his connection with the Siamese.

17. With regard to Salengore, the Vice President in Council approves of the terms by which it is relieved from all molestation in future on the part of Siam, and trusts that the provision of the 14th Article of the Treaty will sufficiently enable the Government of Prince of Wales Island to accomplish so important an object connected with the Malay Peninsula, as that of preventing the extension of Siamese conquest to the vicinity of Malacca. His Excellency in Council

further hopes that the 10th Article of the Treaty will open and secure to the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island and Malacca the valuable trade with Patna and with the interior of the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula overland, and by means of the numerous rivers in that quarter. The importance of this trade has frequently been brought to the notice of the Supreme Government by the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

18th. His Excellency the Vice President in Council has noticed with much approbation the zeal and industry with which you acquired a knowledge of the Siamese language and were thereby enabled not only to converse but to conduct a correspondence in writing with the Siamese Ministers who were thus led to disclose in so new, interesting and unequivocal manner their character and real views and feelings in the letters and original drafts of Treaties with which they furnished you. The advantage also was great which your knowledge of the Siamese tongue afforded you of discussing and settling the several Articles of the Treaty and of inscribing them in the first instance in the language of the Siamese negotiators, nor is the favorable effect to be overlooked which was produced in the mind of His Majesty when you personally addressed him in his own tongue.

19. His Excellency in Council has also noticed with sentiments of much satisfaction the very favorable report you have made of the aid you derived from your assistant Captain Macfarquhar and of the good conduct of the Acting Assistant Surgeon Mr. Harris, Captain Sutherland Commander of the Mission Vessel and of the orderly behaviour of the Soobadar and Sepoys of the Escort. With respect to certain individuals of the last named class, who volunteered to convey your dispatches overland from Bangkok to Martaban and Tavoy you have already been apprised

that their conduct has been brought to the favorable notice of His Excellency the Commander in Chief. His Lordship in Council has also remarked with approbation, the praiseworthy conduct of Messrs. Hunter and Malloch British Merchants residing at Bangkok who afforded you the useful information mentioned in your Report. The good offices and friendly aid of Mr. Carlos de Silveira, the Portuguese Consul at Bangkok are also acknowledged and as you are aware, have at your recommendation, been made the subject of an address from the Vice President in Council to the Government of Goa.

20. Having thus adverted to the principal topics of your Report which appeared to require particular observation, I am now directed to state to you that the Treaty which had been forwarded for the signature of the Right Honorable the Governor General has been returned duly ratified and has also received the signature of the Vice President in Council. By the accompanying copy of a letter from the Deputy Secretary in attendance on the Governor General you will observe that His Lordship proposes to seize the earliest moment of leisure to record his sentiments at length on the principal points comprised in your Reports and on the question of policy discussed in the papers and correspondence from the Government of Prince of Wales Island. His Excellency the Vice President in Council awaits therefore the promised communication from the Governor General previously to replying to the questions of general policy discussed in the correspondence above referred to from Penang, but it will be satisfactory to you to learn that Lord Amherst has been pleased to express his concurrence with the Local Government in highly commending the the zeal, address, temper and ability displayed by you during your negotiations with the Government of Siam, and has declared that he further considers that the results of your Mission have been in the main successful as placing the Political and Commercial Re-

lations of the British Nation with the State of Siam on a decidedly improved footing and that at all events the Treaty negotiated by you has in His Lordship's judgment secured every advantage which could have been expected under the instructions furnished to you by the Governor General.

21. With advertence to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Stirling's letter above quoted, I am directed to inform you that it had appeared desirable to the Vice President in Council that an Officer so well acquainted as yourself with the Siamese character and language, should continue to be employed where those qualifications might be called into action and as the Civil Commissioner for the Tenasserim Provinces, had applied for further aid in consequence of the departure of his Assistant Captain Briggs, His Excellency in in Council proposed to the Governor General that on the termination of your present Mission, you should be directed to proceed to Mergui and assume the Civil charge of the Southern portion of the British possessions in that quarter under the direction of Mr. Maingy.

22. I am now directed to acquaint you that the arrangement above adverted to is to take effect. After touching at P. W. Island where the Brig Guardian is to be discharged, and communicating with the Honorable the Governor in Council of that Settlement to whom a copy of these instructions will be forwarded for his information you will proceed to Queda and exchange with the son of the Rajah of Ligore the stipulated Copies of the Treaty. You will then deliver to your Assistant Captain McFarquhar the Copy of the Treaty ratified by the King of Siam and instruct him to return to this Presidency without delay, while you will yourself lose no time in proceeding to Mergui and placing yourself under the Civil Commissioner. His Excellency in Council trusts that the knowledge which you have acquired of the past history and condition

of the territory on the Coast of Tenasserim and of the views with respect to it as well of this Government as of that of the Honble. the Governor of Penang and your acquaintance with the persons and characters of the Members of the Siamese Government, together with the mass of information you have collected on the constitution and topography of that country and the character and habits of the people will enable you to afford the most efficient aid to the Civil Commissioner in the performance of whatever duty he may consider it most advantageous for the public service to employ you upon. Your Services are also to be held available to the Senior Commissioner Major General Sir Archibald Campbell who is vested with the charge of our political relations in that quarter. It is not improbable indeed, that you may be required to meet and accompany the Mission which the King of Siam has proposed to depute to Bengal, and which although it is not the wish of the Vice President in Council to encourage by any solicitation on our part, may if spontaneously sent be attended with good effects in promoting a more intimate and friendly intercourse with that jealous and suspicious Government.

23. In your capacity of First Assistant to the Civil Commissioner you will be authorised to draw an allowance of Sicca Rupees Twelve hundred per Mensem exclusive of your Military pay. This allowance will commence on the exchange of the ratified Treaty with Siam when your personal allowance and other expenses connected with the Mission to that Court are to cease.

24. With advertence to the last mentioned topic, I am directed to take this opportunity of apprising you of the sentiments of the Vice President in Council with regard to the future conduct of our relations with the Siamese Government.

25. The intercourse between Singapore and Bangkok being either conducted by Junks which it is understood sail only at stated seasons or by a few square rigged Vessels that occasionally go up to the Siamese capital, where they are liable to be detained for an indefinite period, communication by such means cannot be so certain, regular or expeditious as that which may be conducted between Siam and the British possessions of Tenasserim. This indeed has been satisfactorily proved by the fact of your having yourself while at Bangkok, regularly and safely communicated with our officers at Tavoy, Mergui and Martaban. Under these circumstances the duties heretofore performed by the late Resident at Singapore in his capacity of Agent to the Governor General with the States to the Eastward (which office ceased with the abolition of that Residency on its late footing) will as far as relates to Siam be now conducted by the Chief Political and Military Authority in Tenasserim. You will take an opportunity therefore of communicating this arrangement to the Rajah of Ligore through his Son, whom you are to meet at Queda. The Governor General will on his return from the Western Provinces make a suitable reply through the channel of Major General Sir A. Campbell to the letter from His Majesty the King of Siam of which you were the bearer. In the mean time I have been directed to address a letter in the terms of the enclosed draft to the Siamese Ministers, the original of which letter you will observe is to be conveyed by you for the purpose of being forwarded through the Rajah of Ligore to Bangkok and a duplicate will be transmitted through Major General Sir Archibald Campbell who will be instructed to take that opportunity of opening a direct correspondence with himself.

26. Should the Rajah of Ligore be himself at Quedah on your arrival there, His Excellency in Council trusts that it is superfluous to impress on you

how desirable it is that you should use every means of persuading him to establish the most friendly and liberal trade and intercourse between Queda and the Settlement of Prince of Wales Island. You will avail yourself of your intimacy with that Chief to advise him to cultivate a cordial good understaning with the Government of Penang and shew at all times the same readiness as it appears his son has lately done in disproving the Reports that may be raised against him by his enemies of his being employed in hostile preparations. You will warn him against engaging in any secret design or intrigue calculated to disturb the peace and government of Perak and Salengore, and you will encourage him to establish the same duties and regulations affecting trade and intercourse at Quedah as may be in force at Prince of Wales Island. With this view you will be pleased to apply to the Government of Prince of Wales Island for a List of Custom and Port Regulations at Penang and deliver it to His Highness, reminding him of his promise to you to arrange these matters on terms of perfect reciprocity, which cannot fail of proving highly advantageous to his own Interests.

I have &c.

(Signed) Geo. Swinton
Secy. to the Govt

Council Chamber
23d February 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 169-171.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

George Swinton Esquire Secretary to the Supreme Government of British India in the Secret and Political Department, to their Excellencies the Six High Ministers, forming the Privy Council of the Kingdom of Siam.

I am directed to apprise your Excellencies that the Right Honorable Lord Amherst, Governor General, being on a tour in the Upper Provinces, has been the cause of some delay in the ratification of the Treaty which Captain H. Burney negotiated with your Excellencies. That instrument however, pledging both our nations to the most sincere friendship and amity, has now been duly signed and sealed by the Governor General and the Ministers of the Supreme Government, and pursuant to the stipulation contained in the last part of the 14th Article, Captain Burney is about to return with it immediately to Queda in order to exchange the ratifications with the son of Raja of Ligore. The Governor General will take an early opportunity of addressing His Majesty the King of Siam, and in the mean time I am directed to tender to His Majesty through your Excellencies the cordial acknowledgements of His Lordship for the distinguished and very gracious reception which his Envoy Captain Burney experienced at Bangkok. That Officer has also brought to the notice of this Government the very kind and gratifying attentions bestowed upon him by His Highness the Wangna, by Prince Krom Meun Surintonraksa, and by Chao Pya Prah Klang and your Excellencies and I hope that the friendship which has now been settled and fixed by Treaty been the English and Siamese Nations may be matured and improved to the mutual benefit of both our Countries, and particularly of our merchants and

traders. Your Excellencies may rest assured of the continued desire of the Supreme Government to maintain and cultivate on all occasions the most friendly understanding with your Court. I proposed to send one copy of this letter through the Rajah of Ligore and another to Martaban, whence Major General Sir Archibald Campbell, the Governor General's Political Agent, will take an opportunity of forwarding it to your Excellencies overland in order that the earliest intelligence may be received by the King of Siam of the ratification of the Treaty concluded between His Majesty and the Honble. the English East India Company.

I have the honor to remain with sentiments of high respect and consideration.

Your most obedient &c.

(Signed) Geo. Swinton
Secry. to the Govt.

Fort William
23d February 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 66-78.

Fort Cornwallis 7th March 1827.

Correspondence between the Rajahs of Ligore and Perak.

Translation of a letter from Aluang Packdi Jutu to Sultan Abdullah of Perak.

The Chow Pya of Ligore, entertaining towards Sultaun Abdulla the greatest kindness and regard, and having a great favor towards him, has directed me to send this letter to Sultaun Abdullah to say that the Chow Pya being as yet only acquainted with Sultaun Abdullah by name and never having yet had a personal interview or conversed with him considers it very desirable if he could meet the Rajah of Perak for once so that friendship may be promoted and he may obtain a good name at the Capital. Will Sultaun Abdullah therefore come for once to meet the Chow Pya of Ligore—will he or not? Nevertheless let him consider what may be most proper and when he has decided let him send me a reply by Aluang Packdi Songkram when he returns so that I may know. If however he (Sultaun Abdullah) cannot come, do not let him be suspicious. The Chow Pya will not be angry, but it appears extremely desirable that he should come for once. This is made know to Sultaun Abdullah so that he may consider, and if he can come it will be very good for him and he can proceed to the Capital to present himself before the great King. This letter is written in the spirit of love and regard.

(A true translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
the 3rd March 1827.

Translation

of a letter from Aluang Packdi Jutu to Sultann Abdullah, the Raja Mooda, Rajah Bandahara and all those who are concerned in the Government of Perak.

Whereas the Chow Pya of Ligore has commanded me to inform you that he proceeded to the Capital, and the letter which the Raja of Perak sent to Kedah was forwarded to the Chow Pya at the Capital. The contents of that letter are understood. What the Rajah of Perak states in respect to making arrangements for the Government of his country and becoming the slave and tributary of the great King of Siam, with true sincerity, is very proper.

Now the Governor of Bengal sent Captain Henry Burney with articles respectfully to present to the King of Siam and desiring to establish friendship between the English and the Siamese, greater than before. The Governor of Bengal sent Captain Henry Burney as the representative of his person to the Capital, and requested that an engagement of friendship might be made. Captain Burney accordingly made a Treaty in the presence of the Ministers at the Capital, requesting that the English and Siamese might be on friendly terms. Many other particulars are stated in the Treaty. The English therein say that they will not send an armament to annoy and disturb Perak, and that they will not permit Salengore to attack or disturb Perak, and they begged that a Siamese Army might not be sent to Salengore. The English are afraid that the Siamese will attack and take Salengore. Aluang Packdi Songkram and the Panghulns and ryots Siamese and Malays who accompanied the Brother of the Rajah of Perak and who remained for a while at Perak having been returned to Kedah in consequence of the English supposing that the Siamese were concerting measures for

attacking Salengore and the scarcity of provisions at Perak, the Chow Pya of Ligore now sends Omboom Sack with some Silk Cloths and other Cloths to give to the Rajah of Perak, the Rajah Mooda, the Rajah Bandahara and the other Chiefs as a trifle on this occasion, and to serve as a token that the Chow Pya has a friendly regard towards and recollection of the Raja of Perak. A list of these articles accompanies this letter.

Moreover when the Chow Pya was returning from the Capital, the great King expressed a great favor towards the Raja of Perak with sincerity and the Chow Pya of Ligore has therefore sent some sugar and rice in a prow belonging to China In, proceeding from the Capital to Pulo Pinang and which will call at Perak and deliver these articles to the Rajah of Perak. Omboom Sack, Nai Kot and Che Walim will therefore remain * at Perak these articles which the Chow Pya of Ligore has sent by a prow to the Rajah of Perak, agreeably to what is before stated in this letter.

* sic.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

P. W. Island
The 3rd March 1827.

Translation

of a letter from Sultan Abdullah, King of Perak, the Jang-de-per-tuan Mooda, Raja Bandahara and assembled Chiefs to Packdi Jutu.

We request you to represent to the Chow Pya of Ligore that the letter which he sent by the Envoys Amboom Sack Nai Kot and Che Walim has duly reached us, and we received it, and the presents according to custom. We also fully understood all the contents and we made arrangements for the Government of our Country to become tributary to the Great King of Siam with sincerity. In this we made no variation. It is started in the commands of the King of Siam, that a friendship has been established with the Governor General of Bengal, and a good understanding has been effected between the English and the Siamese which intelligence is extremely gratifying to us, and we rejoice to hear a Treaty has been made.

Moreover when Captain Henry Burney returned from the Capital, the Governor of Pulo Penang addressed a letter to us, informing us of all particulars respecting Captain Burney's proceeding to Siam. It contained many points as stated in the letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore. With respect to the Chow Pya sending Aluang Packdi Songkram and the Siamese and Malayan ryots from Kedah to accompany our brother, they remained some time after their arrival and superintended the Government of Perak and finding that grain was very scarce they returned to Kedah. Soon after the Chow Pya sent some silk and other Cloths which were brought by Amboom Sack, these we received with a sincere heart, and the Raja Mooda, Raja Bandahara and the other Chiefs also received their presents with due respect. Further in respect to the Sugar and rice stated to be sent in China In's prow, it is not arrived. Amboom Sack, Nai Kot and Che Walim remained a long time, but it did

not arrive, wherefore these persons returned and will make known all particulars to the Chow Pya.

A true Translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 3d. March 1827.

Translation

of a letter from Sultan Abdullah, Raja of Perak, to Aluang Packdi Jutu.

I beg you will respectfully acquaint the Chow Pya of Ligore that I have duly received your letter in which you state that he wishes to meet with me, so that I might obtain a good name and in order that I might proceed to present myself before the Great King at the Capital. I have fully understood all that is therein mentioned. I should be very happy to meet with the Chow Pya of Ligore, and I once intended to have waited upon him for the purpose of adjusting many matters, and if the Chow Pya would be happy to see me, my gratification in seeing him would be ten times as much. But the great King of Siam has come to an understanding with the Governor General of Bengal and established a friendship between them, and the Governor of Pulo Penang sent me a letter by his Envoy, Captain James Low, informing me that this Country of Perak is included in the arrangement, and that the Siamese should not come any more to Perak. Wherefore I do not think it necessary to proceed myself to wait on the Rajah of Ligore, for I am poor man. This I beg respectfully to make known and I beg the Chow Pya will forgive me. Moreover with respect to the three pieces of silk and other Cloths which the Chow Pya sent me I have received them with sincerity. And the Raja Mooda, Raja Bandahara, Tuanko Maha Mantri, Orang Kaya besar, Tumungong Laksmana, Raja Makota and Sri Adeka Rajah have each received a piece of Cloth.

Farther the Chow Pya refers to an elephant which was caught by Sri Adeka Raja and which was six cubits in height (his tusks being small and about the length of his proboscis) and the Chow Pya directed me to take care of him and to tame him. It is true there was such an elephant as referred to in the

Chow Pya's orders, and when Sri Adeka Raja caught him he reported it to me. I directed that the animal should be well taken care of and granted an allowance for the purpose, for it was my intention to send him to the Chow Pya. About a month after the elephant was caught however, he fell sick and died. At that time Aluang Packdi, Songkram and Nai Kot and Che Walim were at Perak, and when these persons returned, I begged them to represent the circumstances to the Chow Pya of Ligore.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 3rd. March 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 344.

Fort William 9th March 1827.

To G. Swinton Esqre.

No. 15.

Secretary to Government in the

Secret Department.

Sir,

I beg leave to transmit herewith certain specimens of cloths in common use at Bangkok, and of woods the production of Siam together with an account of the same marked A. and B. Perhaps His Excellency the Vice President in Council may consider it useful to forward such specimens to Europe.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney

Captain Envoy to Siam.

No. 16. Account of some descriptions of wood, the production of Siam.

No.	Names.	Remarks.
1.	*Mai Sak* or Teak	2d. and 3d. quality. From Raheng, Kampheng Phichit and Phichai. The first quality has a slight tinge of green—the worst kind of teak comes from Phitsanulok, and is known from being full of cracks, and easily splintered.
2.	*Mai Fang* or Sapan	From Menam Noi and Bangnarom on the frontiers of Tavoy and Tenasserim. Used for Dyeing, and [is] exported in immense quantities to China.
3.	Mai Dam Dong or Black Dong.	From the Islands of Chantaboon &ca. much taken to China and said to be the interior or heart of a large tree, from which when dried, this kind of ebony is taken out.
4.	Mai Takhien Hin or Stony from the grain of the wood, it is said running unevenly.	From *Bangpakhong* and Rayong—cut into planks and much used for building the Hainan Junks.
5.	*Mai Takhien* Thong or Golden, from its colour.	From *Chantaboon* &ca. used for paddles and for building the large state boats.
6.	*Mai Pradu* Hom or Smelling.	From *Bangplasai, Raheng* and *Bun-Khang* cut into large broad planks and exported to China Used for tables and furniture.
7.	*Mai Pradu* Som or Some.	From the same places as the *Pradu* Hom; and for junk building, and the keels of boats.
8.	*Mai Teng rang*	From Kanboori &ca. used for timbers and piles of houses.

9.	*Mai Rang.*	From *Bangplasoi* &ca. on the East coast of the Gulf of Siam, used for anchors and rudders of junks.
10.	*Mai* Inthanin	From Chantaboon. A large tree and for junk building for the sides as well as timbers.
11.	*Mai Tabek*	From Saraboori and Pechaboori, used for oars and paddles, and flooring of houses.

The generic term *Mai* or Wood is, according to the idiom of the Siamese language, added to the name of each species.

(Signed) H. Burney
Captain Envoy to Siam.

Calcutta
5th March 1827.

Account of Specimens of Siamese Cloths in common use in Bangkok.

No.	Name.	Usual Price.	Worn by what class.
1.	*Pha Poom* or flowered cloth	11 Ticals	Officers of the rank of Chao Phya and *Phya*. The former often use a pattern with large flowers.
2.	*Pha Ch'hung Poom* or cloth with flowered border. (!)	11 Ticals	Officers of the rank of Phra and Looang.
3.	*Pha Khomen*, or Cambodia Cloth	14 Ticals	In use only with Chiefs of Cambodia, and with Native Christians at Bangkok who wear pantaloons of this Cloth.
4.	*Pha Mooang*, or Purple cloth.	6 Ticals	Kings Pages and Nai or Centurions The centre part of this cloth is often of a green color.
5.	*Pha Ta Dok Thien* or Cloth marked like Henna flowers.	½ to 1 Tical	Lowest classes of both sexes.
6.	*Pha Let Nga* or cloth marked like Sesamum seeds. When the spots are red it is called *Pha Let Nga* deng.	Do.	do.
7.	*Pha Khio* Kram or Greenish blue cloth. When the color is green it is called *Pha Khio Kote*. (!)	Do.	do.
8.	*Pha Lai* or *Pha Hom* The first name is applied to the dress of women, the second to that of men. Both sexes however wear the same and it is imported from China to a great extent annually.	7 Ticals	do.

Remarks.

These cloths are worn round the waist with the ends tucked up between the legs and fastened behind in the same manner by both sexes. Coarse Surat Chintzes of the dimensions of these cloths are much worn by the lower classses, English chintz dresses by the letter classes and by their women. The Princes and Principal Chiefs, on festivals or days of ceremony, wear Surat and Benares *Khimkhaubs* and gold cloths. No person of a subordinate rank to a Phya can wear a *Pha Poom*, and in the presence of the King none but Princes can appear in Chintz. With a mixture of silk or worsted and cotton the manufacturers in England might probably fabricate cloths of these dimensions and patterns at much lower rates than what these generally sell for at Bangkok. But every care must be taken not to introduce any great innovations. The texture should not be thin, and the borders, particularly, should be at the ends of the cloth and not at the sides; the latter pattern will prevent the sale of the finest manufactures. A Siamese tical, as assayed lately at the Calcutta Mint, is equal to 1 Sa. Re. and about 3½ annas.

This Chinese Crape is universally worn. It is generally of a white or black colour among the men, and of an orange, green or white among the better class of the women and of black among the lower class. It is often used, particularly by the lower orders and by the inhabitants of the Southern Provinces, of only one breadth, instead of as this, two breadths joined. The Women usually throw it carelessly over the shoulders like an English lady her scarf. The men wear it round the waist as kind of band, excepting in very cold weather when it is placed over the shoulders, provided the party be not in the presence of a superior, before whom the crape is always tied round the waist. The Princes and Principal Chiefs often, in cold weather, wear long Indian shawls round the

upper part of the body. Perhaps cheap English plain or worked muslins of the dimensions of the crape, and of half its breadth, could be substituted for this dress. A square shawl or scarf would not be received even as a present at Bangkok.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Calcutta
7th March 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141. pp. 90-94.

Fort Cornwallis the 26th March 1827.

Translation

of a letter from Sultan Ab lullah, King of Perak, to the Honble. R. Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

Whereas my brother the Raja Bindahara and Orang Kaya besar, and my son whom I deputed to wait on my friend experienced great kindness and assistance in all respects from my friend, I beg therefore to return my sincere thanks to him. With respect to the muskets and ammunition and the money which were delivered to my brother the Rajah Bindahara and Orang Kaya besar, my accredited Agents, and the kindness of my friend in sending them by a Cruiser; I beg to inform him that they have all reached me in safety, and I have received all the articles as follows with great satisfaction and gratitude for my friend's assistance. The following articles are mentioned in my friend's letter which I acknowledge—viz. 200 muskets complete, 2 casks of Gunpowder, 500 bundles ball cartridges, 1000 musket flints. Cash 3500 dollars for purchase of arms, a ketch and prows to protect the Perak country. All these articles have been received, the money short only what was paid for the ketch and prows which have also reached me.

Moreover with respect to what my friend states respecting Korow and Nackoda Oudin, and his having given full powers to Captain Low and the Commanders of Cruizers to destroy the pirates in the several rivers in the Perak Country, I am extremely pleased to learn my friend's determination, for it is my desire that this Country of Perak shouki be under the protection of the Honble. English Company. I will accordingly

also prepare and send some people to search for and expel the pirates from every part of the Perak Territory, and my people will co-operate with my friend's cruizers. The result of the enquiries which I am now instituting, respecting the pirates, I shall communicate to my friend, through Putek Ababakar.

Moreover with respect to Nakoda Oudin, the Agent of the Rajah of Ligore, he is very partial to conniving with pirates who come from other quarters, and with all the evil disposed people in the Perak Country and they concert together to commit mischief in the Perak Country. The proceedings of Nackoda Oudin and the other people who have been committing mischief in Perak have been such, that if they were my own children, I shall wish to see them destroyed and I shall accordingly direct my people to co-operate with my friend's men. It is reported that Nackoda Oudin is still at Korow and therefore let my friend send some people to attack them from seaward, and I will dispatch a party in land, so that all these bad people may be expelled and in order that the commercial intercourse may be free and uninterrupted.

Farther I enquired of my brothers who were my Envoys to my friend, concerning the Siamese and this Country of Perak and they informed me that my friend has declared the Siamese and people of Salengore shall certainly not be permitted to proceed to Perak and disturb the peace of the Country.

Dated 11th Shaban 1242 or 10th March 1827.

A true Translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr.

Penang
The 21st March 1827.

Fort Cornwallis the 3rd. April 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 95-98.

Translation of a letter from the Ex Raja of Quedah to the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments)

Whereas on Monday last the 28th of this month Shaban, I received intelligence that in the News Paper was contained all Captain Burney's arrangements and Treaty with the Siamese which my friend formerly showed me. It is also reported that all Captain Burney's proceedings are approved by the Governor General of Bengal and that he intends to adhere thereto. When I heard this intelligence, I was exceedingly distressed, for I formerly addressed several representations to my friend requesting that they might be forwarded to Bengal, in which all the circumstances of my case were set forth. I have always placed confidence in the English Company that an Engagement made with them would not be broken, which expectation has induced me to remain so long here, relying that I should experience favor and assistance agreeably to my solicitations, but the late intelligence is very unexpected, and I am in consequence much distressed. There is none in whom I can place reliance but my friend, that he will assist me by sending to the Governor General the letter which I requested to be forwarded on the 15th of Saafar, for in that I have fully explained all the circumstances of my situation, in order that the Governor General might be informed and if the Governor General having been fully informed of my case is not disposed to grant me the assistance of the English Company and to conform to all former engagements, I can only consider it my fate. What can I say more? But I request to remove from Pulo Pinang and to go and seek a place to consider of my circumstances. I only beg the Company and Governor

General of Bengal and my friend will not interfere in case I should be able to retake my Country Kedah and not to oppose any persons who may be disposed to assist me in recovering my Country. I have great confidence that my friend will comply with what I have above mentioned.

Dated 29th Shaban 1242 or 28th March 1827.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Tr. to Govt.

Pinang
The 29th March 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 98-99.

Fort Cornwallis The 3d April 1827.

Letter from the Honorable the Governor to the Raja of Kedah.

I have duly received my friend's letter and in reply have to acquaint him, that I have not yet received any communications from the Right Honorable the Governor General respecting the Siamese Treaty, but Captain Burney is expected here soon from Bengal, and I will duly communicate all particulars to my friend on his arrival.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

Pinang
4th April 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 6th July 1827.

No. 8.

Extract from the Penang Gazette dated the 7th April 1827.

In our paper of the 24th ulto. we published the Siamese Treaty lately concluded, and we confess that entertaining as we do a high opinion of the talents of the negotiator, it has occasioned us very great disappointment. To instance the first four articles. It is surely not necessary to establish by Treaty this self-evident axiom, that one State shall not "molest, attack, disturb, seize or take any place, territory or boundary subject to the other." If it were wished to prevent all future cause of quarrel the "places, territories or boundaries subject" to each, that the other might think there was a right to interfere with, should have been specified and declared by the Treaty. Before the late War the Burmese laid claim to Bengal. At some future day the Siamese may do the same without any infraction of this Treaty, to Tenasserim. The manner in which disputes about boundaries are to be settled is liable to the same objection. There is nothing defined in it. The English and Siamese officers may "write letters to each other and meet and discuss" as directed by Treaty, but they may find it impossible to agree and who then is to give way? Surely the course would have been to have appointed immediately Commissioners to mark out the boundaries of the two States wherever they come in contact. Our objections to the 4th article are the same. Why declare by Treaty that the two nations "must not intrude, enter or seize any persons from the territories of the other?" It is an insult to our national character, to suppose that we should be guilty of such lawless acts ourselves, or submit to them from others; and if the Siamese are so ignorant of what is due from one state

to another as to attempt such acts (they have done so once we believe), they should be told that with us they are not permitted, that they would repeat them at their peril and that they might expect as a consequence, that Bangkok would be blown about their ears. This is the only tone, we are persuaded (and the experience of India, since the first day of the establishment of our power confirms the opinion) that is likely to succeed with such barbarians. It was optional before, as it is now, for one State to give up fugitive subjects of the other; where then is the use of the 4th article? We really think that the 5th 6th 7th and 9th Articles also might be expunged from the Treaty without our interests, or the Siamese, being in any way injured: certainly the provisions they contain of importance might be comprised in four lines.

But what shall we say to the 13th Article? When the Mission first proceeded it was rumoured, and we certainly hoped it might prove true, that one object of it was to obtain the restoration of the King of Quedah, a measure to which we stood equally pledged by every consideration of faith and good policy. We afterwards heard that Captain Burney had requested the Rajah of Ligor, the usurper of Quedah, to accompany him, and that he depended mainly on his influence at the Court of Bangkok for the favorable termination of his Mission. It was certainly not the Rajah's interest to restore Quedah. It was evident that no cession to the Siamese in any other quarter would benefit or reconcile *him* to the arrangement. Our hopes therefore vanished, and we reluctantly came to the conclusion that the rumour had no foundation. But we confess that we were not prepared to see ourselves made the Rajah of Ligor's tools, to be made his instruments for persecuting the unfortunate King. It is we suppose, known to all our readers, this Island was obtained from Quedah on a stipulation that we should defend that State from all enemies. This article, it is true was not confirmed by the authorities

in England; but it is equally certain that this stipulation alone induced the King to give it up, and that he might and would have obtained those terms from the Dutch or French if we had not forestalled them. It is equally well known that since the lawless usurpation of his territory by the Ligore Rajah, he has obtained an asylum on this Island: and this asylum, by the 13th Article of Captain Burney's treaty, we pledge ourselves to remove him from. We even engage to prevent his making any attempts to reinstate himself in his dominions, his right to which we cannot question without invalidating our own title to this island. And for this breach of faith and hospitality, what are we to receive? The Commercial Articles are, we suppose, the best that could be obtained, but unless a British Resident is permitted at Bangkok to receive and enforce the complaints of our merchants, we fear they will be attended to only as far as suits their own convenience. Were it otherwise our objections would remain in full force, but as it is, it seems to us that we have broken those ties that ought to be most binding on Nations; that we have bartered our national faith and good name for a Free Trade in Paddy with Quedah, which we ought to, and shall shortly be independent of, and for some Commercial Articles, on a piece of parchment with a bit of wax dangling to it, which, granted by such a nation, we can look on as little better or more binding than so much waste paper. How far we have any right to bind the King of Quedah from attempting the recovery of his Dominions we will not stop to discuss, but we challenge any person to produce from the many cases that abound in Indian History, one which reflects more dishonor on the British name, than our treatment of the King of Quedah, from our first connection with him, when we obtained the Island under false pretences, to its termination by Captain Burney, when we drive him from a place given to us by his father, and guarantee the remaining possessions of his family to their usurper.

In these remarks we mean nothing disrespectful to Captain Burney. As we before observed, we have the highest opinion of his abilities: we appreciate the difficulties of his situation, and the intractability of the race he went to negotiate with. We wish he had had a more favorable field for the display of his diplomatic talents; and we do most devoutly wish, if other terms were not to be obtained, that no Treaty had been made.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 6th July 1827.

No. 9.

CAPTAIN H. BURNEY'S Observations upon an Article published in the Penang Gazette of the 7th April 1827.

An Article has appeared in the Penang Government Gazette of the 7th of April last commenting on the political parts of the Treaty lately negotiated with Siam by Captain H. Burney.

There is no objection to any person discussing the merits of that instrument, provided only that he will have the candour to hear both sides of the question; but whilst the Calcutta Government Gazette confines itself to an exposition of the commercial parts only of the treaty, the Penang Government Gazette is allowed to publish whatever any one has to say *against* the Treaty and nothing else. The grounds on which the Commercial Articles are founded, as they have been published in the Calcutta Gazette, have satisfied every reasonable person of the advantage of the Treaty so far. The Penang Gazette is now silent as to "the Envoy having only obtained the "promised reduction of a few ticals," to which in an article on the 30th of December last, it had limited the success of the Mission. It now turns to attack the political parts of the Treaty; but we can refute the observations of the writer in that Gazette with very little trouble.

He remarks that "the 1st Article of the Treaty was unnecessary, as it is a self-evident axiom that one State shall not molest, attack, &c. any place, territory or boundary subject to the other, and that to prevent all future cause of quarrel, the places, territories and boundaries subject to each, should have been specified and declared." The 1st Article is the same as that in almost every Treaty ever made, a mere

general declaration establishing mutual peace and friendship, and its style is not more verbose than what characterises the same article in many treaties between European states. Did the writer in the Penang Gazette ever see such an article specify and declare every place, territory and boundary subject to either party? and how long would the article have been had every one of ours, as well as of those belonging to the Siamese, been inserted in it? Not one could have been omitted without leaving "future cause of quarrel." But the writer says, that in the same manner as the Burmese, before the later war, laid claim to Bengal the *Siamese may without any infraction of this Treaty lay claim* to Tenasserim." We presume that it was expected that his readers at Penang would believe this assertion, without examining the treaty themselves. Does not the 10th Article expressly declare, that "the Countries of Mergui, Tavoy, *Tenasserim* and Ye *are now subject to the English*," and does not the same article carefully recognize Penang, Malacca and Singapore as British possessions? What other territory is there belonging to us, which lies in contact with the Siamese dominions, and which is likely to become a future cause of quarrel from the Siamese advancing claims to it?

To the 3rd Article the writer objects, that it "defines nothing, that the English and Siamese officers may write letters to each other and meet and discuss, as directed by the Treaty, but they may find it impossible to agree." But does not the article declare, that the persons so deputed "shall *settle* the mutual boundaries so that they may be *ascertained* on both sides in a friendly manner? If the Siamese Ministers could have been prevailed upon to admit British Officers into every part of their boundary and territory, "Commissioners" might no doubt have been "appointed immediately to mark out the boundaries of the two state wherever they come in contact." This service however, would have been a difficult and tedious one,

amidst the mountainous and desolate waste of many miles' breadth, which formed a kind of neutral territory between the Siamese and the Burmese dominions on the Coast of Tenasserim, and before the work could scarcely have begun, most probably the decision of the Home Authorities against retaining this territory would have arrived and put a stop to the salaries and labours of our Commissioners &c.

The 4th Article, the writer in the Penang Gazette declares, "is an insult to our national character, supposing as it does, that we would intrude, enter or seize any person from the territories of another." In the first place we may ask, was Nakhoda Oodin's village up the Rozan River, where an officer of the Penang Government lately, not only intruded, entered and seized several persons, but where he laid waste and burnt every thing he saw, *within our territory?* Besides, is it a proof of ignorance or unfairness to judge of the provisions of a Treaty made with such a nation as the Siamese, and avowedly drafted and discussed in their language, according to the principles of international law, as they have been fixed and recognized among European States? What a civilized nation like ourselves may consider as superfluous or unnecessary, a people like the Siamese deem objects of vital importance; and we know that an engagement from such a conquering and advancing power as we are, not to intrude into, molest or meditate evil against the Siamese territory or Government was considered by the Siamese Ministers as the most valuable part of the Treaty. They looked upon this engagement as the only advantage which they had obtained, in return for all that they had conceded to our trade. The writer in the Penang Gazette further states, "it was optional before, as it is now, for one state to give up fugitive subjects of the other, and where then is the use of the 14th Article? But does not the experience of what passed for so many years between us and the Burmese Government respecting

the Mug refugees, prove the advantages of having this option to give up well understood and fixed by a direct stipulation? and are not the terms of such a stipulation entirely in our favour, inasmuch as more Siamese subjects are likely to run into our territories, than British Subjects to go and seek the protection of the King of Siam. But it is against the 13th Article of the Treaty that the writer directs his whole force. He calls this article, which *conditionally* engages for the removal of the King of Queda from the immediate scene of his former authority, "a breach of faith and hospitality," "a barter of our national faith and good name for a Free Trade in Paddy with Queda" and declares, that "we stood equally pledged by every consideration of faith and good policy to restore the King of Queda." These are the terms he applies to a public instrument, approved of and ratified by the Supreme Government, which of course has seen and heard everything that can be said on both sides of this question.

In regard to the King of Queda, the first question ought to be, is the petty state of Queda really tributary to Siam? We answer that the Malay Annals themselves acknowledge, that the Siamese had possession of the Malay Peninsula as far as Johor at its extremity, before the first arrival of the Malayan colony from Sumatra? and that Siam, in ancient times had all the regions under the wind * dependent on it. Several other Malay historians declare the same, and add as shown by Valentyn and repeated by Marsden in his History of Sumatra, that during part of the 15th century Malacca itself was subject to the Siamese. Every European traveller and voyager, from the first discovery of these countries down to the year 1782, when a French Catholic Mission was settled at Queda and only four years before our occupation of Penang, all the French embassies to Siam, declare that most of the Malay States, but particularly Queda, were dependent on Siam. Commodore Beaulieu in 1621 shows, that the then King of Queda applied to Siam for

* "Regions under the wind," the phrase familiarly employed by the Malays to denote their own countries.

protection against the King of Acheen. Not an hundred years ago a Siamese from Bangkok, named Phra Boromophothisat Srat, was the King of Queda, and the present King of Queda himself acknowledged to the Penang Government in 1814, that he was descended from a collateral branch of the family which held the the Siamese throne before the conquest of Siam by the Burmese in 1767, when the King and Royal Family of Siam were carried away in captivity to Ava, where the rightful heir to the throne of Siam is now said to be living in the humble capacity of a druggist. The very name of the principal mountain in Queda, *Cherai* or *Jerai*, is taken by the Malays from the Siamese name for the country, *Thrai* or Srai, whilst remains of Siamese villages and religious and other edifices are still to be seen in many parts of Queda, particularly at a place called Campong Mannow in the immediate vicinity of Penang.

The writer in the Penang Gazette says, that "Penang was obtained from Queda on a stipulation, that we should defend that State from all enemies, and that the King of Queda might have made the same bargain with the Dutch." So far from this being true, it is well known that the fear of the Dutch Government of Malacca, which had just before taken possession of Perak, Salengore and Rhio, was one of the principal causes of the old "King of Queda's anxious desire to have the Honble. Company for his protector;" and that the Governor General in Council refused to engage further than "to keep an armed vessel stationed to guard the island of Penang and the coast adjacent belonging to the King of Queda," distinctly apprizing him, as it has been repeated almost annually to his successors, that the British Government would not interfere in his disputes with Siam or any of the Eastern Princes. We have not a shadow of a ground for driving the Siamese out of Queda, and restoring the King by force of arms; and no one can deny this when it is further known, that the presen

King of Queda went up to Bangkok, performed homage before the King of Siam, and received from that monarch a Siamese Title and his appointment to the Government of Queda, with which he returned and superseded his uncle. A disputed succession to the throne was referred to the King of Siam and decided by him in favor of the present King of Queda, who, several years after, sent up his eldest son and principal Minister to Bangkok, where they also performed homage before the King of Siam.

We do not deny however that the King of Queda, in consequence of the long and intimate connexion which has subsisted between him and ourselves, is entitled to every protection and pecuniary support for himself and his followers which the Penang Government has the means of granting to them. But if we have not an unquestionable right to couple this protection and pecuniary support, with such conditions as may secure our own peace and tranquillity, we had much better resign Penang to the King of Queda, and refrain from spending any more money upon that Settlement. It is evident that as long as he and his followers continue to reside at Penang, in daily sight of their former homes, the most unneighbourly feelings must exist between the Siamese and them; and that they must naturally enough strive every thing in their power to provoke a war between us and that nation. All these stories of the Siamese preparing to attack Penang, which have during the last four or five years been the cause of so much alarm to the inhabitants of that Settlement originated with the King of Queda's partizans. How long are the inhabitants of both Penang and Queda to be kept in this state of ferment?

Many persons at Penang have been led to suppose that it is intended in a certain quarter to persecute the King of Queda, to desert him and to remove our protection from him. How far this is true may be

seen by the terms which are now offered to His Highness. If he will consent to remove from Penang to Malacca, Singapore, or any other British territory, he shall be assured of every protection and consideration; he, and as many of his followers as desire to accompany him, shall be afforded every accommodation and facility to remove, and as large grants of land at their new residence as they may require; and his stipend shall be increased from 500 Dollars per month, which he now receives to 1000 Dollars per month, being 2000 Dollars per annum more than what we are engaged to pay to him for the occupation of Penang.

It is hardly necessary for us to take any notice of what the writer in the Penang Gazette says respecting the Rajah of Ligor. The Envoy endeavoured to carry that Chief along with him in the negotiation of certain points, which were under the immediate jurisdiction of that individual, and respecting which, it was well known, that the Court of Bangkok would be exclusively guided by his reports and opinions. That "Usurper", as he is called however, is an officer entirely subordinate to the Siamese Court under special orders from which he invaded and now keeps possession of Queda. It was expected that the war with Ava would have furnished the Envoy with some equivalent to offer him, in return for Queda; but when this expectation was disappointed, the Envoy was obliged to accept as much as he could obtain, and he saw that the only Treaty which ought to be made with such a people as the Siamese, was one which it should be their own interest to keep and respect. The Raja of Ligor afforded the Envoy most important aid on every point excepting of course on that in which his own interests were concerned, and for which he could be offered no return. But does not the conduct of the Penang Government itself now prove the advantage and policy of obtaining the hearty acquiescence of the Chief local Authority to any

arrangement, the completetion or maintenance of which may depend upon such authority? Had the Envoy been deputed to Siam without any reference to the opinions and wishes of the Government, it would have loudly complained of a diminution of its local influence and authority; and now, because an arrangement has been made which does not include the *whole* of its wishes, it is displeased and dissatisfied, and we own we are more afraid of a violation of the Treaty on the part of our Officers than on that of the Siamese.

Some late letters from Bangkok prove in a most gratifying manner the respect which the Siamese Ministers are disposed to show to the Treaty. The benefit of its provisions was offered to Messrs. Hunter and Malloch, and to the Surat Traders of the past year. Every facility was afforded to Messrs. Hunter and Malloch, when they were leaving the country, to realize their outstanding debts; and all the acts of the Siamese Court proved a sincere anxiety to maintain the most friendly relations with the British Government. The Treaty was even appealed to in favour of the Portuguese Consul, who had given some serious offence to the Court, for which the King ordered him to be decapitated. The *Wungna* and *Prince Krom Meun* Soorin, as the Portuguese Consul himself writes, produced the Treaty, and argued that by its provisions the Siamese Government was restrained from inflicting on a European Capital punishment for any other offence than murder.

The 6th Article of the Commercial Agreement was intended of course to be be limited to Europeans being British Subjects but the Siamese consider all Europeans as of one family and *caste*, and are aware of the very intimate connexion which has always subsisted between the Portuguese and our nation.

(Signed) H. Burney.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 195-6.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

Letter from the Honorable the Governor to the Raja of Ligore.

I have duly received my friend's letter mentioning his safe arrival at Merdelong which I am happy to hear. In reply to my friend's enquiry, I have to acquaint him that accounts have been received of Captain Burney's departure from Bengal for this place, and his arrival may be daily expected. I shall not fail accordingly to give my friend the earliest notice when Captain Burney reaches this place.

As to the rumours which my friend refers to, it may scarcely be necessary for me to say they are altogether groundless and I am happy to find that my friend has too much good sense to give any credit to them. The late arrival of troops is in consequence of the relief of Bengal by Madras troops for the Settlements in these Straits, and the British Government in this quarter do not contemplate any hostilities with neighbouring States, with which on the contrary it is their anxious desire to remain at peace and to encourage the most friendly intercourse.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

Pinang
The 12th April 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 192-4.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

Translation

of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honble. R. Fullerton, Governor of P. W. Island, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I have to inform my friend that the letter which he sent me by Koon Aksorn and Nai Niem my two messengers reached me in safety. It is mentioned in my friend's letter that whenever Captain Burney arrives from Bengal, my friend will send intelligence. I have arrived at Merdelong sometime and wait for Captain Burney who has been long in returning. Many people have been reporting that Pulo Pinang is going to attack Queda, but the impression in my mind is that there is no truth in the report, for an engagement has been made with Captain Henry Burney, which he has taken with him to Bengal, and that engagement provides that friendship and a good understanding shall prevail between the English and Siamese. The rumours therefore I do not credit. I now send Koon Aksorn to wait on my friend to communicate all my wishes and to settle every thing so that friendship may be prolonged.

Moreover some time ago, viz. in the 11th Month, some people reported at Pulo Pinang that prows and planks were preparing in the Country of Quedah under the Siamese Government, and my son at Quedah sent a letter to my friend requesting some agent to be sent to examine, but the report proved to be unfounded and my friend's suspicion ceased to exist. These sort of reports arise from some people who are inimical to the Siamese, and who wish to excite a difference between the English and the Siamese. My desire is with sincerity and truth to promote the wishes of the Right Honble. Lord Amherst, Governor General of Bengal,

and to extend the trade and intercourse by which friendship may be prolonged with the Right Honble Lord Amherst, Governor General of Bengal. If any persons inimical to the Siamese bring my friend reports, do not give them credit but enquire of me first. I am now waiting for Captain Burney and when he arrives at Pulo Pinang I request he will speedily send me a letter so that I may be informed without delay. Whatever the Right Honble. the Governor General may direct through Captain Burney I will endeavour to arrange and settle according to the desire of the Right Honble. Lord Amherst, Governor General of Bengal, and establish a permanent friendship.

Dated 26th of 4th Month.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson.
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang
the 13th April 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 102-104.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

Brig Guardian. Off Penang
16th April 1827.

To J. Anderson Esquire
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I beg to report my return to this Presidency with the Treaty with Siam ratified by the Supreme Government. I have forwarded directly to the Honble. the Governor the Sealed Dispatches entrusted to my charge, and I enclose herewith a Packet to your address under a flying seal together with copy of a correspondence that passed at Tavoy between the Civil Commissioner there and myself, respecting the 2000 bags of rice, which were shipped at Calcutta on board the Mission Brig, and for which Mr. Maingy made a public requisition.

I touched at Queda for a few hours, and learnt that the Rajah of Ligore with the Copy of the Treaty bearing the King of Siam's seal is at Merdelong, where he has been awaiting my return for the last two and a half months. An express was immediately sent off to him.

On board the Brig Guardian is a Bombardier of the Madras Artillery who is proceeding to Fort St. George on a Sick Certificate and who was received at Tavoy at the request of the Commanding Officer there.

A Month's Notice of discharge, as required by the terms of the Charter Party of the Brig Guardian and as directed to be given in your letter No. 1414 of the 29th of last September, was communicated to her Commander on the 13th of last Month.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captn.
Envoy to Siam.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 172-179.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th April 1827.

Minute by the President.

I have perused the voluminous documents delivered in by Captain Burney. They require but little notice or remark as my sentiments on the whole proceedings of the Mission are already recorded and remain unchanged. I make for the Envoy all due allowance for the difficulties he had to encounter, I give him all credit for partial success, but adhere to the opinion already given that as regards the main objects of this Government the Mission has completely failed. In respect to Perak it is perfectly true that Captain Low exceeded his powers. That he went further than was contemplated, further than this Government could under the circumstances of the time have warranted; the Treaty made by him could not and was not confirmed and all necessary explanations have been given to the King of Perak as to the causes which opposed that confirmation; but while we admit all this we must admit also that but for the vigorous measures pursued by Captain Low, the whole object of that part of the Treaty must have been completely destroyed. The Article of the Treaty professes to leave the King of Perak at full liberty to admit or reject any political connection with Siam; it is perfectly well ascertained that even from the time of the signing the Preliminary Treaty at Queda the Raja of Ligore had been directing his utmost efforts to defeat by underhand means the object we had in view. Parties had been sent to Perak in direct violation of his agreement to overawe and intimidate the King, every person around him even to his own son had been corrupted by the emissaries of Ligore, he was surrounded by the Agents of that artful and ambitious Chief, and virtually prevented from availing himself of the provisions in his favor. It is therefore as clear

as the light of the Sun at noonday, that unless Captain Low had taken the measures he did in removing the corrupt hirelings of Ligore and placing around the King persons untainted by the poisonous principles infused by that Chief, the Article of the Treaty must have been a mere nullity, for however he really felt towards us, the King, situated as he was, could have had no option and must otherwise have been constrained to throw himself into the hands of the Chief of Ligore. In going the length he did we must admit Captain Low took upon himself great responsibility, but I think we must admit also that his measures have secured the object of the Treaty, for, from their executions alone can the independence of that Chief be said to commence. Documents more than one of the nature alluded to in para. 16 of the letter to Captain Burney of the 23d. February 1827 * and in his report of 29th December 1826* para. 7, have been obtained. They are clear and decisive as to the wish and desire of the King. Other transactions have recently come to light displaying the views and intentions of the Chief of Ligore towards Perak as well as the underhand manner of carrying them on. It is perfectly ascertained from documents, the authenticity of which cannot be disputed, that a notorious pirate by name Nakoda Oudin has been established in the Korow River within the territory of Perak, by the authority and commission of the Chief of Ligore; with the aid and protection afforded by this agent of Ligore our inhabitants have for the last year been plundered, murdered and sold into slavery in considerable numbers, and it was only after all other means had failed when the ultimate measure of of the actual dispersion of the gang was carried into effect, that the origin and mover of these atrocities was discovered. Such transactions are quite enough to induce the necessity of attention on our part to the proceedings of Ligore, and to warrant distrust of professions when facts are at variance.

* See ante in this vol. To be copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. Cons. vol. 344.

From the general tenor of the communication now received it may be inferred that we are to support the independence of Perak against all attempts of Ligore open or indirect, but the papers contain no decided instructions on the case. I propose therefore that this part of the subject be referred to Captain Burney and that he be required to state distinctly his opinion whether it be understood that under the * Article of the Treaty we are to oppose such attempts either against Perak or Salengore by actual Force.

Of the expediency of inducing the Ex King of Queda to seek another residence and of the effects of his proximity to his late Kingdom no doubt can be entertained. Every effort should be made and has indeed been already made to prevail on him to remove to Malacca under our protection, and the decision of the Supreme Government as contained in para. 14 of their letter to Captain Burney should be communicated to him. But as this forms a part of the instructions to that Officer it is probably intended that he should make the communication. But if all arguments fail, it is not I presume contemplated to resort to compulsive measures and I confess I should think it preferable to forego the benefit of the corresponding provisions of the Treaty rather than have recourse to actual expulsion, neither indeed would such suit the real interest of Ligore. So long as the Ex King resides under our protection that Chief has our guarantee against attempts at recovery, but whenever he quits our protection, our responsibility ceases, and however improbable it may at present appear that the Ex-King should find others powerful enough to assist him, yet no eastern government is so firmly established as to be secure against sudden revolutions. The whole race of Malay are sufficiently exasperated against Siamese dominion to take the first favorable opportunity for throwing it off. That they have not attempted it ere this is to be ascribed in some

degree to the idea they entertain of the subsisting friendship and consequent support which the Siamese would receive from the British Government, an opinion deduced from our long continued acquiescence in the progressive aggrandisement of that Nation and our scrupulous forbearance even when the interest and existence of one whom they viewed as an ally were involved.

(Signed) R. Fullerton

17th April [1827].

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 208-210.

Fort Cornwallis May 1827.

P. W. Island 3d. May 1827.

To the Honble. R. Ibbetson Esq.
Resident Councillor
P. W. Island.

Honble. Sir,

I beg leave to report to you that I received letters yesterday from the Rajah of Ligore, replying to the communication which I transmitted to him from Quedah on the 15th Ultimo, requesting me to give him a meeting on the River Trang, for the purpose of there exchanging the ratifications of the Treaty with Siam. As the Messengers of His Highness declare that he is already come down to Khuntannee, I lost no time in making an offer, subject to your approval, to the Commander of the Guardian, which Brig is about to proceed to Calcutta, for her to touch with Captain Macfarquhar and myself and our followers at Quedah, Trang and Tavoy, and afterwards to convey Captain Macfarquhar from the last mentioned place to Calcutta, for the Sum of Spanish Dollars Fifteen hundred. With reference to the instructions from the Supreme Government, requesting this Government to facilitate the means of my repairing to Quedah, and subsequently joining the situation to which I have been appointed on the Tenasserim Coast, I beg to enclose the original of the letter from the Agents of the Commander of the Guardian, and to submit for your consideration and sanction the terms of this provisional arrangement, which I am assured is extremely moderate for this season of the year, during which the Coast of Tenasserim is a lee shore, considered particularly dangerous from the want of accurate charts.

May I beg also that the proper Officers of this Government may be directed to furnish me with copies of the Port and Commercial Regulations now in force at this Settlement, in order that I may communicate a knowledge of the same to the Rajah of Ligore, pursuant to my instructions from the Supreme Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 294-8.

Fort Cornwallis the 26th July 1827.

Pinang 10th May 1827.

To George Swinton Esqre.
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I beg you will do me the honor to bring under the consideration of His Excellency the Vice President in Council the following circumstances.

Upon my return to this settlement from Fort William, I observed an article had been published in the Pinang Government Gazette of the 7th of April, commenting in very inaccurate and mischievous terms upon certain parts of the Treaty which I had negotiated with the Siamese Court. Although I felt indignant at being held forth to the public in a Gazette, avowedly "published under the authority and patronage of Government" as one who had concluded a Treaty, some of the provisions of which are "an insult to our national character" and have "bartered our national faith and good name", yet I was unwilling to engage in any controversial correspondence with the Local Government and confined myself therefore to preparing a vindication of my character.

Having however subsequently gathered from a conversation with the Honble. the Governor that he had been pleased to speak to the Censor of the Government Gazette for having allowed such an article to appear in it, I endeavoured to trace out the author and upon remonstrating on the subject with Mr. Cox, the Editor and Printer of the Gazette, he some days after addressed me a letter, disclosing that Captain Lake of the Madras Engineers and Inspector General of Plans, Estimates and Works at Penang was the writer of the article in question.

I submit that it was highly unbecoming in an officer of Captain Lake's standing, distinct line of service, short residence to the Eastward, and absolute ignorance of all points connected with the History of Siam and the Malay States, and of our relations with those Countries, to allow himself to pass any opinions upon the late negociations with Siam, after he was aware too that the highest authority in India had ratified and directed the publication of the Treaty. Yet he writes the most intemperate and disrespectful opinions in the character of the Editor of a Newspaper and he employs his immediate subordinate, Lieutenant Hodge, the Executive officer acting under his orders at Pinang to cause such opinions to be published in a Government Gazette. Had I not been shown the original manuscript which to the best of my knowledge and belief is in the handwriting of Captain Lake I should truly have considered him as the last person at Pinang either qualified or inclined to criticise the Treaty with Siam, and I owe it in justice to him to own, that I cannot attribute his conduct to any disagreeable personal feelings towards myself as we have been on terms of civil intercourse.

Viewing his conduct however as connected with political considerations I am obliged to report that I have reason to believe the publication of such opinions in the Pinang Government Gazette has encouraged the partizans and advisers of the Ex King of Queda to thwart and counteract the wishes of the Supreme Government as to his removal from Pinang and that in my humble judgment, if the Supreme Government desire to cause the provisions of the Treaty with Siam to be duly maintained and to prevent the Officers of the Pinang Government from wantonly interfering with political details which are vested by the Legislature exclusively in the Governor General in Council, some notice should be taken of Captain Lake's procedure, as far as the same may be done without exposing the Printer of the Pinang Gazette to the loss

which he deprecates in his letter to me. The Press at Pinang is private property depending for its support upon the public advertisements and a small monthly stipend from the Pinang Government, and a sense of the obligations which Mr. Cox considers he owes me was the principal motive that urged him to disclose to me all the circumstances connected with the publication which I have now thought it my duty to bring under the consideration of His Excellency the Vice President in Council.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 221-223.

Fort Cornwallis May 1827.

Pinang 12th May 1827.

To the Honble. R. Ibbetson Esqre.
Resident Councillor.

Honble. Sir,

The Young Siamese Chief of Queda having complied with a recommendation from me that he should send over to Pinang, before my departure, the Queda State prisoners, and a party of seventy persons, consisting of the sisters, nephews, nieces and personal friends of the Ex King of Queda, having arrived last night, I took an opportunity this forenoon, after His Highness had seen these people, to call and again press upon him the expediency of his complying with the wishes of the Supreme Government as to his removing into some other British Territory. The reply of the Ex King confirms my previous opinions that to carry this desirable measure into effect, it is only necessary for this Government to make some decisive communication to His Highness.

I beg leave to add, that I embark on board the Guardian this day for the purpose of proceeding to Traang, to exchange the ratifications of the Siamese Treaty with the Raja of Ligore.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 223-240.

Fort Cornwallis May 1827.

Brig Guardian off the
Coast of Trang 29th May 1827.

To the Honble. R. Ibbetson Esq.
Resident Councillor.

Honble. Sir,

Having delivered to the Rajah of Ligore the Treaty with Siam ratified by the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, and received in exchange the counterpart of that Instrument bearing the Seal of the King of Siam, and being now about to proceed to my destination on the Coast of Tenasserim, I beg to forward for the information of the Government of Penang the following narrative of my proceedings.

I landed at Queda on the 14th and had an interview with the young Chief, who showed every desire of establishing the most friendly and liberal trade and intercourse between Queda and Penang. He informed me however and the intelligence was confirmed from other sources, that the Ex King of Queda's partisans, during the last three or four months, had nearly ruined Queda by the reports and tales which they had sent and taken thither of the determination of the Penang Government to attack that Country. The most extensive emigrations had taken place, particularly from the northern districts of Queda; and as the petty Chuliah and Chinese traders also had taken alarm, all commercial as well as agricultural pursuits had been for some time at a stand.

Owing to very adverse weather the Brig Guardian did not arrive off the district of Trang until the 21st, when the Commander finding it unsafe to enter the channel between Pulo Telibon and the Mouth of the

Trang River, or to lie close to the western side of that island, proceeded with the vessel and anchored to the eastward of an island name Pulo pappan, situate about 10 miles west of Pulo Telibon, in an excellent harbour which has nine fathoms of water close to the shore and in which a vessel can be well sheltered during the present south west monsoon.

Early on the 24th we left the Brig in some large war boats which the Rajah of Ligore sent out, and late on the same evening we arrived at a place called Khao Rachhasi or Lion Hill, a mile below the village of Jansoo or Khooan Phaya Nak and about 8 miles above the Mouth of the Trang River, where the Rajah of Ligore is making a new settlement, and where he had prepared accommodations for himself and us. On the 26th he permitted us to make an excursion up the River and to visit Junsoo and Khooan Tani. I saw the former village in 1825 and than gave an account of it to the Homble. Governor in Council. But I was now anxious to make a close inspection of Khuntanee or rather Khooan Tani, to which I was prevented from advancing in 1825, and which I believe no British Officers had hitherto been allowed to visit. It is about 18 or 20 miles above the Mouth of the Traang. I was much disappointed. Instead of finding it a large village, with a respectable population and abundance of means for enabling the Rajah of Ligore to make the extensive military and naval equipments, which the reports of Malays had so often described at Penang, we could see only about 50 boats drawn up under sheds and several unserviceable; the Ex King of Queda's brig and pleasure boat, the former quiet decayed and the latter hastening into the same condition; about 30 or 40 straggling houses, with 200 Siamese and Malay inhabitants, and 10 or 11 poor Chinese, residing at a place called *Kem dam*, a little below some rising ground, which is styled Khooan or Mount Tani. Not a vestige of any recent warlike

preparations could we see, not a chip of wood, and in fact with the exception of 8 or 10 good English 18 pounders which were taken at Queda, Khooan Tani has neither the appearance nor the capability of becoming the great Naval Arsenal and Depôt which the Malays had reported of it. We were allowed to walk about and see every part of the place. On our return the Rajah of Ligore frankly owned that his objection to any British Officer visiting Khooan Tani proceeded from his apprehension that the British Government might be tempted to take advantage of the miserable and really defenceless condition of the place, to go up and attack it, and thence invade his territory of Ligore.

To the above I may add that although the River Traang, in spring tides, has from 2 to 3 fathoms of water as far as Khooan Tani, and a small boat may ascend it several miles above that place, yet it is in general full of shoals, with several large islands, and intricate channels towards the mouth, and the bar at the mouth not navigable for a large boat excepting at high water. It is further unapproachable from the southward even to boats of any burthen, as a reef runs between the south end of Pulo Telibon and the main, whilst to the northward the channel is narrow and the navigation unsafe for large ships. Yet some of the early European voyagers noticed this place under the name of Tarangh, as being resorted to by vessels, whose imports interfered with the trade carried on towards the Gulf of Siam, and particularly from the factory which we then had at Patani. Of late years, with the exception of some elephants and rice, and a little tin occasionally exported by the Rajah of Ligore to the Coast of Coromandel, Traang has been scarcely known to the merchant. Still the country is by no means unworthy of his attention, for the neighbourhood abounds in tin ore, and the forests are full of that beautiful black wood termed at Penang the Siam wood, and of a species of fustic called by

the Siamese Klak yielding an excellent yellow dye. Several Chinese have lately been encouraged to cultivate pepper, and were a cordial good understanding but maintained with His Highness of Ligore, I am convinced that a very profitable commercial intercourse might be established between Penang and Traang, by means of small square rigged vessels and Native Boats, and the old overland trade with the interior and eastern countries re-opened. Khooan Tani is at most but 5 days journey from Ligore.

With reference to the points to which, in the 26th paragraph of my instructions from the Supreme Government, my particular attention was directed, in the event of my meeting the Rajah of Ligore, I beg to acquaint you, that during the four days I resided with His Highness, I had ample opportunity of executing the orders of Government. I furnished His Highness with a translation and full explanations of the different Port and Revenue Regulations in force at Penang, and he repeated his promise that he would arrange these matters on terms of perfect reciprocity, and endeavour to introduce in Queda, as far as Siamese prejudices would admit of it the same rules and regulations in every particular, as well as the same facilities to trade and intercourse as exist at Penang.

I advised His Highness, in the strongest terms, to cultivate a cordial good understanding with the Government of Penang and [to] show at all times the same readiness as his son at Queda had done in disproving the reports that may be raised against him by his enemies of his being employed in hostile preparations. His Highness gave me every assurance which could be desired on these points, and one proof of his sincerity, by permitting myself and three gentlemen who accompanied me, to visit and inspect Khooan Tani, immediately upon my making the application. But His Highness repeatedly declared that as long as the Ex King of Queda continues to reside at Penang,

he is convinced every means will be still employed to sow suspicion and distrust between the Government of Pinang and himself, and as fast as one report is disproved another will be invented. It is unnecessary for me to recite all the mischief that His Highness asserted the Chinese and Chulia as well as Malay traders from Penang had done in Queda, and the contiguous Siamese States during the last three or four months. They had declared again and again that the Treaty with Siam had been rejected by the Governor General upon the recommendation of the Government of Penang, and that the English had resolved upon hostilities against Siam, and upon attacking Queda and Bangkok at the same time, with a fleet of 80 ship full of troops and 2 steam vessels, which were being collected at Penang. His Highness attributes all these mischievous reports to the presence of the Ex King of Queda at Penang and in fact to the active agency of that individual and his followers.

I duly warned the Raja of Ligore against engaging in any secret design or intrigues calculated to disturb the peace and government of Perak and Salengore. His Highness appeared much discontented with Captain Low's negotiations in Perak, full accounts of which had been forwarded to Ligore by some of the very officers of the Government of Perak. His Highness declared and gave me some reason to believe the fact. He asserted that not the slightest reliance could be placed in any thing that the King of Perak or the persons about him may engage, but that as we had taken advantage of the 14th Article of the Treaty with Siam, which stipulates that the King of Perak shall govern his country according to his own will and pleasure, to make that Chief annul the whole of his engagements with the Siamese, the latter cannot now he clearly saw, interfere with Perak in any manner without coming into direct collision with us. But His Highness is most vexed at Captain Low's attack upon

and destruction of Kurao, and he appeared much perplexed what course to pursue to make his grievance known to the British Government. I saw Nakoda Oudin, who signified a desire of proceeding to Bengal and submitting his complaint to the authorities there, against which step I of course endeavoured to dissuade him. The Raja of Ligore maintains that Kurao is the last established boundary between Perak and Queda, and that this fact, as well as those of Nakoda Oudin having been made Chief of Kurow in the first instance by the Ex King of Queda, and of his having been confirmed only in that situation by His Highness of Ligore when the latter took possession of Queda, is very generally known in Queda and Perak. The Raja of Ligore therefore considers the attack of Kurow as a violation on our part of the Siamese territory, and an infraction of the 2d Article of the Treaty with Siam.

Nakoda Oudin and the Malay Servants of the Rajah of Ligore assert that Kurow was many years ago considered by Queda as the boundary between himself and Perak, and this assertion received some confirmation from the letter which the late King of Salengore addressed to the Penang Government in 1806, when he conquered Perak, which Country, he then declared was his "from the River Kurow to Betung Bras Basah." They further assert that at the time the late Bindahara of Queda conquered Perak, he and the Chiefs of Perak expressly settled that Kurow should be considered as the boundary between their respective countries, and this assertion also receives some confirmation from the intelligence which appears to have been collected on this subject by Mr. Crawfurd, who in an account of the Malay States published in March 1825, represents Kurow as being the then boundary between Queda and Perak. The fact of Nakoda Oudin having been first settled at Kurow by the Ex King of Queda has

been proved to me by letters from the Ex King expressly acknowledging it. Nakoda Oudin vehemently denies the charge of having abetted or harboured pirates, and engages, if the Government of Penang will give him an opportunity and confront him with his accusers, he will prove the falsehood of their statements and depositions.

Referring however to what Mr. Light had reported, and to the chart which Mr. Lindsay had made of the neighbouring coast soon after our first occupation of Penang, I assured the Rajah of Ligore that the River Krean and not Kurow was always, and must now be, considered as the true boundary betweeen Perak and Queda, and that if he sends any person to the Southward of the former river, he will displease the Government of Penang, and probably provoke a war between the English and the Siamese. After some trouble I persuaded His Highness to make Nakoda Oudin draw out a statement of his case and to refer it to the consideration and justice of the Government of Penang, and at the same time to request the Honble. the Governor to make enquiry and ascertain whether the Krean or the Kurow is the proper boundary between Perak and Queda, His Highness expressly engaging on this last point, to abide entirely by the decision of the Honble. the Governor. The Rajah however insisted upon being allowed to make known to the Supreme Government what he termed the great concession which he is willing to make, in order to cultivate a good understanding with the Government of Penang, and to avoid all possibility of the friendship now established between the Siamese and English being interrupted in any manner.

In conclusion I beg to enclose a Return of the Relatives and followers of the Ex King of Queda who were realeased and sent to me at Penang by

the young Chief of Queda on the 12th Instant. Three or four more persons have been subsequently released and sent over to Penang.

I have &c,

(Signed) H. Burney Captain.
Envoy to Siam.

[The enclosed Return includes 5 principal persons, 23 children and 42 servants and followers, making in all 70 persons.]

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 245-6.

Fort Cornwallis June 1827.

Letter from the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca, to the Raja of Quedah.

I have to acquaint my friend that having received a communication from Captain Burney, relative to the release and arrival at Penang of my friend's relatives and dependents who have been so long retained as prisoners by the Rajah of Ligore, in conformity to the stipulations of the treaty made at Bangkok, it now becomes indispensably necessary that the reciprocal obligation on our part should be fulfilled by my friend's making immediate preparations for removing to Malacca, at which place the necessary arrangements are making for my friend's being accommodated and settled in a suitable and proper manner.

Directions have been given to the Honble. Mr. Ibbetson, the Resident Councillor, to prepare a suitable vessel, for conveying my friend to Malacca, and I rely that I shall speedily receive accounts of his safe arrival at that station.

(Signed) R. Fullerton.

Singapore
The 28th May 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 243-5.

Fort Cornwallis June 1827.

Extract from the Proceedings of Council, Secret and Political Department.

Singapore the 29th May 1827.

Read the following copy of a letter addressed to the Resident Councillor at Prince of Wales Island by Captain Burney Envoy to Siam, reporting the return of the relatives and dependents of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah from Ligore and urging the removal of His Highness from Prince of Wales Island.

The Board regrets extremely that Captain Burney has not stated the express terms of the communication made to, and the reply received from the Ex Rajah of Quedah which has led to an opinion and expectation so much at variance with those to which our former communications gave rise. As the execution of this painful duty with all its responsibility will rest with this Government, it would have been satisfactory if those particulars had been communicated.

The Right Honble. the Vice President in Council having however by Mr. Secretary Swinton's letter dated 23d February last* (paragraph 4) intimated the desire of the Supreme Government that immediate steps should be taken for carrying onto effect the removal of the Ex Rajah of Quedah from Prince of Wales Island, the President proposes transmitting to the Rajah, through the Resident Councillor the following letter.

See ante in this vol. for the copy.

(True Extract)

(Signed) John Anderson
Secry. to Govt.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 449-462.

Fort Cornwallis The 16 August 1827.

Brig Guardian off the District of Trang
31st May 1827.

To George Swinton Esquire
Secretary to Government
Fort William.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to report to you, that I have exchanged the ratifications of the Siamese Treaty with the Rajah of Ligor and have delivered to my Assistant, Captain Macfarquhar, the Copy of that Instrument bearing the King of Siam's seal, for that officer to convey the same to Fort William, agreeably to the instructions which I had the honor to receive from you. I addressed a Report of my proceedings at Trang to the Honorable Mr. Ibbetson, the Resident Councillor at Penang, and I beg to enclose herewith a copy of that report for the information of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Vice President in Council. I now solicit permission to submit a few additional remarks.

2. On the subject of Perak I regret that the intelligence which has come to my knowledge is by no means satisfactory. As I anticipated, I find some of the very Officers of the Government of Perak, who are now about the person of the King of Perak, have attempted to keep up a secret correspondence with the Siamese, and have forwarded to the Rajah of Ligor detailed accounts of all Captain Low's proceedings at Perak in October and November last. The Rajah of Ligor has promised upon his return to Ligor to send me the original letter from the Perak Officers as well as some letters previously addressed to him by the King of Perak.

3. There is, I think, an important omission in the report of both the gentlemen who were sent to the King of Perak by the Penang Government. It relates to the personal character of that Chief. He is described to me by many who have seen him, as a poor, weak, ignorant creature, scarcely able to read or write, and of so facile a disposition as to be the tool of all who may be near him, and particularly of some mischievous Hajis, who direct his conscience and actions. The Ex-King of Kedah himself described the King of Perak to me as "*gila*" or an idiot. It cannot be necessary to point out to the consideration of the Supreme Government that the personal character of the Chief in a despotic and uncivilized State like that of Perak, must constitute the only guarantee for the faith and good conduct of its Government, and for the maintenance of its public engagements.

4. I am not unmindful however of the expediency and policy of preventing the Siamese from extending their influence over Perak, and every exertion was made by me to impress upon the Rajah of Ligor the danger of his interfering in any manner with that State, or of his encouraging its unprincipled officers to maintain a secret correspondence with him. That His Highness saw the truth of what I urged, and that he was sincere in his assurances of abiding by my advice will I trust, be apparent from his having engaged to send me the letter lately addressed to him by the Perak Officers, and from his having agreed to submit the question of the boundary between Kedah and Perak to the arbitration of the Honorable the Governor of Penang

5. But I am convinced the more we interfere in the internal Government of Perak the more shall we be involved in unprofitable, expensive or embarrassing political relations. The Penang Government has lately advanced to the Rajah of Perak a loan in

money and arms to the extent of about 5000 Dollars. I fear there is little chance of repayment of any portion of this loan, and the manner in which it will be applied may be inferred from the proceedings of the King of Perak's Agent who came to receive this loan, and who, it is asserted, squandered a large portion of the money in the purchase of a clock, some jewels and other baubles, before he quitted Penang to return to his master. It is the active part which Captain Low has taken in the internal affairs of Perak and in assisting that poor Chief to bring his territory and subjects under his authority which appears to me to have led that officer into the questionable proceeding of attacking and destroying Kurow, a place which, even if the Siamese had no claim upon it, is far inland and beyond our jurisdiction. This proceeding has given to the Siamese some cause to tax us with a breach of the Treaty, in the very last article upon which I had hoped we should ever have been charged.

6. I believe pirates may have found shelter at Kurow, because I know that there is not a river in the Malay Peninsula in which piratical boats may not occasionally be found. But I have seen so much falsehood and inconsistency in the statements and depositions of Malays when they have a purpose to serve, particularly against the Rajah of Ligor and the Siamese, that I am disposed to give no credit whatever to the documents with which the Penang Government has been furnished, to prove that Nakoda Oudin had harboured or abetted pirates at Kurow. The manner in which after he found his settlement and property destroyed, he came over to Penang and regularly reported himself to the proper officers of Government, and when he found them unwilling to hear his complaint, his putting himself into the hands of a lawyer, Mr. Bacon, in order to appeal to the Court of Judicature for redress proves at least Nakoda Oudin's own confidence in the justice of his case. It is perhaps to be regretted that he was not permitted to

avail himself of the Court of Judicature at Penang for cross examination there would have been, and indeed would now be the only test whereby the truth or falsehood of his accusers could appear.

7. I trust that His Excellency the Vice President in Council will approve of the terms to which I have brought the Rajah of Ligor to agree for having his claims to Kurow as well as Nakoda Oudin's complaint adjusted. Nakoda Oudin's petition of course exaggerates the extent of his loss, and is like every production from a Malay inconsistent in several points. The enclosed report from me to Mr. Ibbetson details the grounds upon which the Siamese claim Kurow as the boundary between Perak and Quedah and with such a case as the Rajah of Ligor appears to have, I hope his acquiescing to abide entirely by the decision of the Honorable the Governor of Penang will be considered as creditable to His Highness's character, as it must be satisfactory to us to see how sincerely desirous he is of cultivating a cordial good understanding with us.

8. The River Kurow is said to be from 18 to 20 miles to the Southward of the Krean, and there is an obvious advantage in persuading the Siamese to consider the latter as the boundary of Quedah, because the stream is contiguous to our territory of Province Wellesley, and the Siamese there would be more under the observation of the Penang Government and less likely than from Kurow to be tempted to interfere with the Government of Perak.

9. Conceiving that it was highly important for the Supreme Government to possess some information regarding the Rajah of Ligor, which should not be liable to the suspicion even of partiality, I took an opportunity of introducing to His Highness, as well as to his son at Queda and to the Ex-King of Queda at Penang, Mr. T. Millet of the Bengal Civil Service, and

as this gentleman accompanied me on shore at Trang, and daily saw the Raja of Ligor there, I hope His Excellency the Vice President in Council will receive the evidence of so impartial and independent a Witness, in respect to the character and disposition of His Highness, and compare it with the opinions which my personal acquaintance of the last 5 years has led me to form and report to Government

10. The Rajah of Ligor informed me that he had sent his son, the Governor of Merdilong, express to Bangkok with the letter which you addressed to the Privy Council of Siam and that he would himself proceed thither immediately in order to present His Siamese Majesty with the Copy of the Treaty ratified by the Governor General in Council, and to concert arrangements for the deputation of a Siamese Embassy to Bengal. His Highness also informed me that a difference has lately occurred in some of the principalities of Laos, particularly at *Vien chang*, situate in about Lat. 18° on the great Cambodia river, called by some European authors Lanchang and by the Dutch, who sent a Mission to it in 1641 when it was the capital of Southern Laos, Winkjan.

11. In the course of conversation one day his Highness asked me what the British Government proposed to do with the ceded territory on the Coast of Tenasserim, and in order to try him I replied, that as the expense of retaining it is great, the Governor General contemplated restoring it to the Burmese. He did not appear at the time to notice my reply, but that it made an impression he afterwards convinced me by sending an express messenger to follow me to the vessel with a note of which this is a literal translation.

"What Captain Burney said that the Governor "of Bengal in consideration of the great expence of "the countries of Tavoy and Martaban will restore

"them to the Burmese, is this true or not? I wish "to know for certain and to submit the matter to "the King of Siam, that His Majesty may be posi- "tively informed. Further I wish to ask and know "if the Governor of Bengal does not desire to retain "the countries of Tavoy and Martaban, which for- "mely belonged to the Siamese, and if the Siamese "require them, do you think those countries will be "given to them or not? send and let me know. "And now my friend is going away in haste I "have no time to think. Desire Captain Macfar- "quhar, if he can enquire of the great officers in "Bengal respecting these countries of Tavoy and "Martaban to see and do so. Whatever the great "officers in Bengal may say, send me a letter and "let me know. When my friend understands what "is said in this letter, let him send word to me "by Luang Chihang Klang." (the bearer of the note.)

12. The above note confirms what I had the honor to report in the 1st part of the report of my Mission dated 2nd. December last, as to the real but secret desire of the Siamese to obtain a portion of territory on the Coast of Tenasserim.

13. The Rajah of Ligor expostulated much with me upon the disadvantages of the Ex-King of Kedah's continued residence at Penang, and upon this point His Highness has certainly taken high ground by first fulfilling his part of the conditions of the 13th article of the treaty, in releasing the Ex-King of Quedah's relatives, abolishing the export duty upon grain, and directing the immediate introduction of our commercial regulations into Quedah.

His Highness has entrusted to the care of Captain Macfarquhar a Letter addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor General, with a few presents. In conclusion, I hope I may be allowed to repeat my

acknowledgments for the important and cordial aid which my Assistant Captain Macfarquhar has afforded me on every occasion, and to recommend him earnestly to the notice and protection of our liberal Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captain
Envoy to Siam.

Substance of a letter from the Rajah of Ligor to the Right Honble. the Governor General.

(After Compliments.)

Be it known to my friend that on Friday the 15th day of the sixth decreasing Moon in the year Turtle of the Animals, in the year 1189 of the Siamese Era, and year 1827 of the English Era (Friday 28th May 1827) Captain Burney and Captain Macfarquhar bearing the Treaty ratified in Bengal and a letter addressed by Geo. Swinton Esquire to the Six High Ministers forming the Privy Council at Bangkok, reached me and I received them with regard, great respect and friendship, exchanging with cordiality the Treaty bearing the Royal Seal of the Six Great Ministers with Captain H. Burney who delivered it to Captain Macfarquhar to be taken to Bengal. The Treaty which Captain H. Burney has brought to me I will convey to Bangkok. And now I desire to cherish and cultivate friendship towards my friend and I have prepared some Siamese Articles and given them to Captain Macfarquhar to present them to my friend and to the great Officers in Bengal who have sealed and signed the Treaty, that these may for the present serve as tokens of regard. Moreover I will now represent something with truth and sincerity for the information of my friend. During the interval Captain H. Burney had not returned with the Treaty, the King of Quedah and his people who are living at Penang thought and spoke calumny in order to excite distrust between the Siamese and English, saying that Captain Burney will not return with this Treaty, and that the English were coming to attack Quedah. The people who were living in Quedah were disturbed and alarmed and unable to trade or seek their livelihood. The Affairs of the Country were interrupted. Captain Macfarquhar is aware of all this, let my friend ask him. All my wish is that the English and Siamese may be connected in friendship

as long as the Heaven and Earth last. And I desire with truth and sincerity to do every thing according to the Treaty and I have sent Tuanku Jamjam, the brother of the King of Quedah to Penang to Captain Burney who has delivered him to the King of Quedah. I have fulfilled the Treaty without evasion on any point, and with respect to the King of Quedah, if he continues to live at Penang he will think and speak calumny so that the English who dwell at Penang may distruct the Siamese, the affairs of the Country be interrupted, and the inhabitants rendered unfit to trade and seek their livelihood. Let my friend order the King of Quedah at once to go and live in another Country. There will not be men to calumniate, and Penang and Quedah will be able to improve friendship and be able to have trade and intercourse with freedom and facility. As to the followers of the King of Quedah calumniating the Siamese, and stating that they are preparing boats in order to make war upon Penang, this is positively not the case. The Siamese have no wish whatever to do evil to the English, they think only of friendship. I have let Captain Burney, Captain Macfarquhar, Frederick Millet Esq., and Captain Sutherland, the Commander of the Ship, go and see Quedah and Trang in every direction that they may be perfectly satisfied. Let my friend require of these four gentlemen that he may be thereby informed of my sincerity. I observe that Penang and Queda are close to each other. I desire that the English who dwell in Penang may entertain a great regard for the Siamese. Captain H. Burney has brought to me the Port and Commercial Regulations of Penang: the Siamese and English customs are not similar in every particular; whatever portion may be practicable and proper I will desire the people of Quedah to adopt, so that the traders of Penang and of Quedah may have intercourse and trade with equal freedom and facility. The English Subjects

who visit Quedah I will protect and cherish as far as possible. Let the English protect and cherish to the same extent the people of Quedah who visit Penang, so that an advantageous friendship may be maintained between those countries which are contiguous, and the regard between the English and Siamese may continue to augment. Further, I think perhaps my friend does not know with certainty the former history of Quedah, and I will communicate it for the information of my friend. Quedah has been dependent on Siam for a long time, during many years. In ancient times when the Siamese were Chiefs of Quedah, they sealed with red colour. When the Siamese Dynasty expired and Malays became Chiefs they sealed with red in the same manner as the Siamese and not with Black Colour as all the other Malay Countries do. Every Malay who has been Chief of Queda was dependent on Siam and they all sent the Gold and Silver flowers to Siam from the earliest times down to the Grandfather and father of the King of Quedah. They were established from Siam and received from thence the symbols of authority, and they had names given to them in the Siamese Language also. Upon the death of the father of the present King of Quedah, who was the Tuanku Pangeram, the latter went to Bangkok, and performed homage before the King of Siam. His Siamese Majesty appointed Tuanku Pangeram to be Chief of Queda. His brother Tuanku Mom and Tuanku Busnoo went to Bangkok and complained that the Chief of Queda was acting irregularly and holding correspondence with the Burmese, the enemies of the Siamese. His Siamese Majesty summoned the Chief of Quedah, to counsel him not to do any thing contrary to custom. Formerly the Chief of Quedah was accustomed to wait upon His Siamese Majesty, but when he committed fault he refused to go. He was summoned 4 or 5 times. He was contumacious and would not go, violating the laws. His Siamese Majesty ordered

the Chief of Quedah to be seized and brought, that if possible he may be counselled not to do any thing that may be a fault or crime against the laws. The Chief of Queda then went and resided at Penang. And this is the History of Queda, if I desired to recite the whole it would be much longer. I have selected and recited some points that my friend may be informed of the same. Furthermore there is a matter respecting Nakoda Oodin, a servant of mine who has had some difference with the people of Penang. Nakhoda Oodin has made a petition to me. I have sent a letter enclosing Nakhoda Oodin's petition to the Governor of Penang that he may arrange this matter, according to friendship and propriety. I have made copies of my letter and of Nakhoda Oodin's petition and given them to Captain Macfarquhar to take and explain, that my friend may learn how I conciliate the Governor of Penang in order that the friendship between the English and the Siamese may not be destroyed, but be cemented and prolonged.

My true heart sends this explanation with sincerity. If then my friend who is great and governs Bengal understands what is said in this my letter, I beg my friend will see the road of improving friendship and send a letter to let me know.

Letter written on Monday the 3d day of the 7th decreasing Moon in the year 1189 of the Siamese Era, Year Turtle of the Animals (28 May 1827).

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

Translation

No. 29.

Letter from the Chow Phaya Akamaha Sena Thibodi Aphaja Phiri Bora Kromphahu Samuha Phra Calahome Akamaha Sena Thibodi Minister of the War Department in the city of Krung Si Ayuddhya to G. Swinton Esqre. Secretary to the Government of British India.

Your letters to the Ministers of this Kingdom, through the medium of Captain Burney who delivered it to the Governor of Queda, which came via Ligore, and the other through Major General Sir A. Campbell from Martaban, notify that you had received the commands of His Excellency the Governor General of Bengal to communicate to us that the Treaty of firm friendship between the Siamese and English nations concluded by Captain Burney was signed and sealed by His Excellency the Governor General of Bengal and the Members of the Supreme Council, and that Captain Burney had been deputed to exchange it for the instrument which remains at Queda in the Possession of the son of the King of Ligor, conformably to the stipulation in the 14th article. You further state that His Excellency has been highly gratified at the reception which Captain Burney experienced from His Majesty, His Highness the second King, the Prince Kromamun Surin Tharak and the other Ministers and that His Excellency trusts that this friendship between the two nations may ever continue to flourish. The Ministers have understood the whole of the contents of your letters, and are equally desirous of maintaining the existing relations. They also made known to His Majesty the contents of the said letter who was pleased to observe that His Excellency manifests an ardent desire to establish permanent friendship between the British and Siamese nations, and that in regard to the conclusion of the Treaty, His Excellency

has evinced that he is worthy of the station which he so ably fills in India. The friendship between the two nations shall be lasting and the Siamese and British merchants shall carry on their commerce freely. The Ministers of Siam offer their acknowledgements to His Excellency and express their confidence in the English nation, and their hope that the friendship between them may continue so long as Heaven and Earth shall endure.

This letter goes via Martaban through Major General Sir A. Campbell for G. Swinton Esqre., who will communicate its contents to His Excellency the Governor General of Bengal.

Krung Si Ayuddhya, 31st May 1827.

(True Translation)

(Signed) W. Foresty—Translator.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141. pp. 299-300.

Fort Cornwallis the 26th July 1827.

To Captain Burney
Late Envoy to Siam.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 10th May last, bringing to the notice of Government an article published in the Pinang Gazette commenting on the Treaty lately concluded by you with the Government of Siam.

2. The Vice President in Council considers the article in question to be highly objectionable as commenting in very improper and disrespectful terms on a Treaty ratified by the Supreme Government in India, and regrets that it should have been allowed to appear in the Pinang Gazette which it is understood is subject to the revision of an Officer of Government, as Censor of the Press. The Honorable the Governor in Council of P. W. Island will accordingly be requested to call on the Censor for an explanation of the grounds on which he was induced to pass the article in question, and to take such notice of his conduct as he may deem fit.

3. In like manner the conduct of Captain Lake will be brought to the notice of the Honble. the Governor in Council of Fort St. George with a request that he will be pleased to take such notice as he may deem proper of so extraordinary and reprehensible a proceeding.

I have &c.

(Signed) Geo. Swinton.
Secretary to the Government.

Fort William
6th July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 468-471.

Fort Cornwallis The 16 August 1827.

To Captain Burney
Late Envoy to Siam.

Sir,

* Copied and sent from Beng. Secret and Pol. Cons. vol. 346.
† Copied from this vol. see ante.

Your Dispatches of the 23d April* and 12th† and 31 May† last have been under the consideration of the Right Honble. the Vice President in Council, by whom I am now directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions in reply.

Dispatch 23d April.

2. A copy of this dispatch has been transmitted to the Right Honble. the Governor General who has been requested to communicate in a direct address to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island his sentiments on the general line of policy to be pursued in regard to the Malayan States and the Government of Siam. In the mean time I am directed to acquaint you that the tenor of your reply to the letter from the Secretary of Government of Prince of Wales Island under date the 18 April is considered by the Vice President in Council to be entirely judicious, and the sentiments which it conveys on the questions proposed to you have the full concurrence of His Lordship in Council.

3. It is highly satisfactory to the Vice President in Council to learn from your Dispatch now under acknowledgment that the Court of Siam has shown every disposition to cultivate a friendly intercourse with the British Government as manifested in the instances cited by you. His Lordship in Council trusts that the alarm which had been excited among the Siamese at Kedah and throughout the surrounding country in consequence of the additional troops which had arrived at Penang from Fort St.

George has been allayed by the pains which you took to remove from the mind of the Rajah of Ligore the suspicions he had not unnaturally entertained of some hostile movements being in contemplation on our part.

Dispatch 12th May.

4. This dispatch relates to the terms on which the Brig Guardian has been taken up by you for the service therein mentioned. Your proceedings in that respect are entirely approved.

5. The conduct of the young Chief of Quedah in complying with your recommendation to send over the relations of the Ex-King to Penang is highly satisfactory and the Vice President in Council is happy to observe that on your pressing upon the latter Chief the expediency of his removing to some other British territory, as suggested by the Supreme Government his reply confirmed your previous opinion that to accomplish this desirable object it was only necessary for the Government of Prince of Wales Island to make some decisive communication to him regarding it. His Lordship in Council trusts that the Honorable the Governor in Council will have followed up your suggestion to this effect.

Dispatch 31 May.

6. Your report of your proceedings relative to the exchange with the Rajah of Ligore of the ratified copies of the Treaty with Siam is very satisfactory.

7. With regard to the affairs of Perak and the particular questions of Kurao and the complaints of Nakhoda Oodin, the Vice President in Council entirely approves the judgment and address manifested by you in persuading the Rajah of Ligor to agree to an adjustment in the manner proposed. His Lordship in Council from all he had yet learnt, is fully disposed to concur with you as to the impolicy of our interfering

with the internal government of Perak, but on this subject he awaits a communication of the sentiments of the Right Honorable the Governor General. His Lordship in Council would have wished that until this had been received, the Government of Prince of Wales Island had abstained from furnishing arms and making any pecuniary advances to the Rajah of that country, a considerable portion of which appears by your statement to have been squandered by his Agent at Penang. The Vice President in Council under the circumstances stated by you, regrets that the apparently questionable proceeding of the attack on Kurao by Captain Low should have afforded a handle to the Siamese to tax us with a breach of the Treaty, but His Lordship in Council trusts that as the Rajah of Ligor has consented to abide by the adjustment of the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, every endeavour will be made by that Government to satisfy the Rajah and the Court of Siam that nothing is further from our intention than any encroachment on the possessions of the Siamese or any infringement of the stipulations of the Treaty so solemnly contracted between the two states.

8. The Vice President in Council rejoices to observe that the Rajah of Ligor has afforded the most conclusive proof of his friendly disposition, and his confidence in our justice and good faith by at once fulfilling his part of the conditions of the 13th article of the Treaty in releasing the Ex King of Kedah's relations, abolishing the export duty upon grain and directing the immediate introduction of our commercial negotiations with Kedah. The Rajah's letter to the Governor General has been forwarded to His Lordship, who will, no doubt, avail himself of the opportunity of expressing in his reply, the gratification he has derived from these instances of the Rajah's friendship.

9. The testimony borne by you to the important and cordial aid rendered to the Mission by your late Assistant Captain Macfarquhar is highly creditable to that Officer and has not been overlooked by His Lordship in Council.

I have &c.

(Signed) Geo. Swinton
Secretary to Government.

Fort William
6 July 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 348.

Fort William 16th November 1827.

No. 21.

From the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of Prince of Wales's Island, Singapore and Malacca to the Rajah of Ligore.

I have lately received a letter from my friend covering a petition from a person named Nakhoda Oodin the late Pengulu at Korow. It has astonished me much that my friend should have any doubts respecting the southern boundary of Quedah, which has long been well known to be the River Krean. In every map and account of these countries compiled since the period that the British Government has been acquainted with them, the Krean is stated to be the boundary and for my friend's further satisfaction I send him a copy of a map prepared by Captain Burney two years ago, in which the Krean is noticed as the established boundary between the states of Quedah and Perak. On this point therefore so well ascertained and now for the first time questioned it will [not] be necessary to enter into discussion.

In respect to Nakhoda Oodin it may only be necessary to observe that the neighbourhood of this island had long as my friend is aware, been infested with pirates. Numbers of trading vessels were captured close to the harbour, supplies were at one time almost cut off, subjects of the Government were murdered, wounded or carried away and sold as slaves. It was found that Korow within the Perak territory and claimed as such by the Rajah was the stronghold of these daring marauders, that a strong band of pirates was there established and that Nakhoda Oodin, as the Chief, not only set the authority of the King of Perak at defiance, but participated in the plunder, purchased the slaves, supplied the pirates with arms, ammunition and opium and in fact afforded every

possible encouragement to the pirates residing with him. Numerous depositions to this effect are on record at the Police Office. The dispersion of such a band of pirates became indispensable to the security of Native Traders and the safety of the lives of the subjects of this Government. On the attack which took place by the cooperation of the Rajah of Perak, Nakhoda Oodin fled and some time after had the audacity to come to this Settlement where he was of course, in consequence of the several depositions made against him previously, seized by the police and subsequently sent to my friend with the expectation that he would have met with a punishment due to his crimes. I cannot consent to hold communication with such a person as Nakhoda Oodin and can only regret that my friend has not adopted a different course of proceeding.

It has been reported to me that a notorious pirate and robber named Fakir Saib (the associate of the pirate Nya Marrid who was nine months ago tried and executed here) is at present in confidential employ under my friend. A reward of 100 Dollars was some time since offered for the apprehension of Fakir Saib and several attempts have been made to seize him during the last two years. As he is a notorious offender and there are many serious charges against him, I have to request that my friend will cause Fakir Saib to be seized and sent hither agreeably to the terms of the Treaty.

Penang (Unsigned)
The 12th July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 256-7.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th July 1827.

Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble. R. Ibbetson

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that Captain Burney and Captain McFarquhar arrived and met me at Trang and exchanged the Treaty. Captain Burney and Captain McFarquhar praised my friend and I am very desirous to establish a permanent friendship with my friend. I was anxious to have prepared some things for my friend's acceptance, but the time will not admit of my doing more than sending him at present a Cup as a small token in the mean time.

Moreover the Honble. R. Fullerton Governor of Pulo Pinang, Singapore and Malacca sent me a letter with Nakoda Oudin, which I have replied to. Every thing is therein mentioned and if the Governor has not returned, the letter may be delivered to whomsoever it may be proper to deliver it and as Koon Aksorn the bearer of it is ignorant of the customs I request my friend to assist him and point out the proper course in that respect.

A true translation

(Signed) John Anderson.
Malay Transr. to Government.

Pinang
The 12th July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 273-6.

Fort Cornwallis the 18th July 1827.

Translation of a letter from Ex Rajah of Kedah to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Pinang Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I have to inform my friend that on Saturday the 12th Dulhijah I received my friend's letter respecting the return of some Members of my family who were sent by the Siamese and my friend desires me to conform to the Treaty which Captain Burney made with the Siamese, directing me at the same time to remove and reside at Malacca. On this subject prior to my friend's departure, he urged me to proceed to Malacca, and I mentioned all the circumstances which disinclined me to reside at that place. I also explained everything fully in the letter which I addressed to my friend, relying upon the assistance of my friend. Now however my friend sends me a letter ordering me to go to Malacca, but I cannot by any means reconcile my mind to proceeding to Malacca agreeably to the engagement of Captain Burney who has conformed to the will of the Siamese.

Moreover were I to go and reside at Malacca or any other place, my confidence in the assistance of the Company would be at an end, the Treaty between the Company and my father would be lost, and I should be considered a very wicked man in being driven away by the Company to Malacca, according to Malayan customs (or notions) I should be disgraced. When I came to Pulo Pinang, I relied that the Company would assist me and adhere to the Treaty made between Mr. Light and my father. This expectation has induced me to remain thus long at Pulo Pinang, for I believed that the Company would

never break any engagement, and whatever was promised by them would always be adhered to. I was also aware that the power of the Company was much superior to the Siamese, which let me to entertain the hopes above referred to. I still have great confidence in the justice of the English Company, the Governor General and all my friends to relieve me from the order to remove to Malacca or any other place, and if the English Company do not wish to assist me according to the engagement of Mr. Light, the Agent of the Company, with my father, I request that I may be permitted to quit Pulo Pinang and follow my fate, according to what may be destined by the Almighty. I trust my friend will assist me by complying with my wishes above expressed. If not, it will be better for my friend to put me to death at once, so that the name of the Company and my own may be celebrated in all parts of the world. With respect to Malacca, I could not consent to remain one day there and I cannot proceed thither. I have only to present many compliments to my friend.

Dated 14th Dulhijah 1242.

(A true translation)

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Translator to Government.

Pinang
The 12th July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Sett'c-ments, vol. 141, pp. 249-55.

Fort Cornwallis The 18th July 1827.

Minute by the President.

I have read with attention Captain Burney's letter to Mr. Ibbetson, dated 11th June last,* as to the rumours supposed to be circulated by the Emissaries of the King of Queda and their effects. I can only express my wonder that Captain Burney should make such frivolous matter the subject of a public communication. The real intentions and actions of this Government are, I am convinced, just as well known at Quedah and Bangkok as at Penang itself, and neither at the one place nor the other do I believe the Siamese ever expected an attack. If they had, Captain Burney would probably have made a better Treaty. Silly rumours will always be circulated whether the King of Quedah is here or elsewhere, but it is alike an insult to the understanding of the Chief of Ligore, as well as the Members of the Government to suppose that any public act would be founded thereon. That emigrations from Quedah have taken place there is no doubt, at least 16,000 of the inhabitants of Province Wellesley are emigrants from that country. The emigration arises from the severity of the Siamese Government and the ease and security afforded by ours, and that its extension is only prevented by watching and occasionally seizing the wives and families of the Malays every one knows; but this has nothing to do with rumours and reports alluded to. Of the present state of Trang River, which Captain Burney adduces as interring that no preperations ever were made there, it is enough to say that we have sufficient proof on that point. Good care was taken to prevent Captain Burney proceeding there (and for obvious reasons) on his first visit; the Raja of Ligore is not a man to be taken unawares and is too experienced a carpenter to leave the tools and his chips for the

* ? an error for 29 May. See ante letter from Burney of that date.

inspection of Captain Burney; but it is to be sincerely lamented that Captain Burney in settling one point of discussion should have allowed another to be started on which he had no authority whatever to communicate—the boundary of the Quedah Country—on that subject I never before heard a doubt expressed. Captain Burney always gave himself out as possessed of extensive knowledge of the Geography of the Malay Countries, and we have a Map of his own making wherein the Krean is expressly set down as the boundary between Quedah and Perak; doubts are now started on this point and these points afford not the first instance when the past opinion of Captain Burney gave way to present objects. Whether Nakhoda Oodin was first placed at Kurow by the King of Quedah or whether that King ever declared the Kurow River the boundary is of little consequence. Captain Burney knew well that if either was done it was at the time when the King of Quedah was compelled by the Chief of Ligore to attack Perak, was acting without means of opposition under his immediate directions and control: the acts of the King under such circumstances were those of the Chief of Ligore himself. That he should now quote them for his own purposes, is perfectly consistent with his usual policy, and that Captain Burney should attach any weight to them is only further proof of the complacency with which every assertion of that Chief is received by him. Of the conduct of Nakhoda Oodin, I think it safer to judge by the depositions given at the Police Office, than the assertion of the Chief of Ligore, or the belief of Captain Burney. That the shores of this island were infested with pirates for nearly a year, that prows, junks and fishing boats were plundered, their crews murdered and wounded, and that upwards of 70 of our inhabitants were sold into slavery is sufficiently notorious. That they were carried in the first instance to Kurow is established by the evidence of some who escaped, of others who in

most barefaced manner were sent to this Island to procure opium to ransom their relatives from captivity. That Nakhoda Oodin came out himself as a pirate does not indeed appear, but it is proved that the three heads of the pirates were his servants. That he shared the plunder, that he furnished the pirates with arms, provisions, and, to use the Malay term of extensive favor, gave them wives, is also proved. That he was the Panghulu or head man is admited by the Chief of Ligore himself as well as Captain Burney, and as such he was bound to repress instead of encourage such acts of outrage. To the best of my recollection all the papers connected with this transaction were shown to Captain Burney and if so he has much to answer for in giving any countenance whatever to Nakhoda Oodin in leading the Rajah of Ligore to believe that a British Government would ever parley or compromise with the murderer of their own subjects. That the Rajah does entertain the expectation of such is evident from his letter, not a very respectful one. If Captain Burney entered at all into this discussion he should at once have set down in the most decided manner any such pretensions, instead of opening the door for further useless and vexatious discussions. Annexed is the reply which I propose should be sent to the the Chief of Ligore.

(Signed) R. Fullerton.

14th July 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations. vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

No. 24.

To G. Swinton Esqre.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Leslie, whom I had sent with letters to their Excellencies the Six Ministers at Bangkok returned here about ten days ago, having proceeded as far as Canboori, a short distance from the Siamese Capital, when he was unfortunately laid up by fever, which gave a plausible pretext to the Governor of Canboori to prevent his proceeding further, which will be seen by the Lieutenant's notes of his journey, that with a sketch of his route from the three Pagodas to Canboori accompanies this letter, and if joined to Lieut. Scotland's* from this to the three Pagodas will afford a tolerable accurate information on a tract of country hitherto but little known.

* These notes have not been copied as they deal with the route up to the three Pagodas only, on the Siamese frontier.

A party of Siamese accompanied Lieutenant Leslie back to Moelmyne, as the bearer of a letter from the Siamese Government, I believe to your address now sent, as well as two letters to myself, written in Portuguese as well as in the Siamese language, from the Siamese Minister at War in answer to letters sent by me from hence, copies of which I have already transmitted to you.

Lieutenant Leslie on his return was confidentially informed by some of the Tallian Sirdars in the service of Siam, that a serious insurrection had broken out in some of the Lower Provinces of that kingdom, headed by a near relation of the King. That their General, the Roan Roan with a large force had been sent to repress it; that already some fighting had taken place, and expressed an opinion, that if it assumed

such a height as afforded any prospect of success the Tallians would join the insurgents in a body, in hopes it might afford an opportunity of liberating their families to enable them to return to these (Ceded) Provinces to settle on their native soil. They told Mr. Leslie that this event was the cause of his not being allowed to proceed to the capital, for fear of our being made acquainted and take advantage of it and attack them in their trouble. The latter part may be true, but I think it equally probable to be only a made up story as an excuse for stopping him at Canboori in consequence of their alarm from the military preparations and equipments going on at Penang.

I have &ca.

(Signed) A. Campbell—Major Genl.

Moelmyne
14th July 1827.

P. S. I am sorry to find from Mr. Leslie that notwithstanding the exertions of Lieutenant Colonel Frith while commanding at Mergui, and afterwards followed up, with great energy by Captain Burney, that numbers of the old inhabitants of these Provinces are still detained captives in Siam.

(Signed) A. C.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

To Major General Sir A. Campbell G.C.B. and K.C.T.S.
Commanding the Forces in Tenasserim.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I this morning arrived from Canbooree, an extensive town within two days march of Bangkok to which place I was most anxious to proceed in order to deliver in person the letter entrusted by you to my care. But being unfortunately taken unwell at Canbooree, the Governor of that place, on the plea of being extremely anxious for my recovery delayed my departure for a considerable time even after my health was perfectly restored and I found myself under the necessity of delivering up my letters to him with a request that he would forward them to the Ministers at Bangkok.

I was not allowed to enter the stockade of Canbooree but on the whole I was treated with the greatest civility and attention. I made several requests to be permitted to return by land, stating that my reason for wishing to do so was because it was the most expeditious mode of travelling in consequence of the rapidity of the stream (at this season of the year) which leads from Kadiengtesing, but the Governor [said] that his anxiety for my health would not permit him to allow me to proceed in any manner but by water, which would be the most comfortable although perhaps a slower mode of travelling.

Having received answers to the letters forwarded by the Governor to Bangkok with others from himself, I again expressed a desire to return by land, but meeting with the same reply as had been previously made to my request, I commenced my return by water on the 11th of June and arrived at the three Pagodas on the 26th of that month.

I beg leave to send accompanying a sketch of the route over land from the three Pagodas at Kadiengtseing* (or the first Siamese Chowky) and another from thence to Canboree by water, but being prevented by certain circumstances from being so exact in my observations as I should have wished to have been, the latter is drawn out from recollection and notes taken whilst travelling. I sincerely hope that they may meet with your approbation and that the few notes accompanying the chart may be the means of proving that no exertion was left unattempted by me to gain permission to proceed the whole of the way to Bangkok, as well as to gain every possible information with regard to the route and nature of the country both by land and water from Kadiengtseing to Canboree.

* See Infra.

I have &ca.

(Signed) J. F. Leslie—Lt. 13 Regt. M. N. I.

Molemyne
3d July 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

Moelmyne 17 Apl. 1827.

Major General Sir A. Campbell G. C. B. and K. C. T. S. &ca. &ca. having entrusted to my care two letters addressed to their Excellencies the Six Ministers at Bankok. I commenced my journey to that place on the 17th of April 1827.

27 Apl. 3 Pagodas.

Passed 3 Pagodas and travelled over excellent roads for two miles when came to the food of a very high and precipitous hill. Road here becomes extremely bad and continues so far 1½ miles when it improves, but thick bamboo jungle on either side for 2½ miles more, when I halted on right bank of Thounkla River, which is 30 yards broad, shallow and rapid, with a few huts on left bank uninhabited. The hills about here are inhabited by Kareens.....6 miles.

Thounkla.

28th Apl.

Proceeded through a more level country, and an excellent road might be formed with very little difficulty from Thounkla to Alantay when * I halted on the banks of the Alantay River, which is shallow, rapid and about 30 yards broad. A few huts at this place. Met by a party of Tallians, two of whom instantly proceeded to Kadieng-tseing to give intelligence of my arrival. Easterly direction all day .....8 miles.

* ? where.

Alontay.

29th April.

A small party arrived from Kadieng-tseing to say that I might advance as soon as convenient. Started instantly, and proceeded through thick bamboo jungle, road extremely hilly and bad. Crossed a small space of open ground which is nearly half way to Kadieng-tseing.....8 miles.

Kadiengtseing.

Bamboo Stockade here occupied by Tallians. The river at this place describes a semi-circle. Surrounding country hills. Commanding officer very anxious that I should deliver over my letters to him but after a great deal of persuasion promised to furnish me with

canoes on the 2d of May to enable me to proceed on my journey. The Tallians are very dissatisfied with their condition and appear very anxious to throw off the yoke entirely. They are seldom allowed to visit their families and the common men receive no pay.

2d May. Started in canoes steering considerably to the westward all day, river very shallow and rocky hills on each side.....8 miles.

3d May. Several rapids, canoes withheld by means of ropes fastened to the stern. Bamboo jungle to the water's edge. Easterly all day.....10 miles.

4th May. Passed two waterfalls as laid down in chart and remains of hutting on left bank. Easterly inclining a little to the Southward all day..... 13 miles.

5th May. River deeper, steering east. Put up at remains of hutting on right bank. Kareen village near here. 16 miles.

6th. Bamboo jungle to water's edge. Steering south 21° west. Passed cocoa nut trees on left bank. Steering south 21° east. Passed two waterfalls and one mile further on is Menan noi. Bamboo stockade here occupied by Tallians situated on left bank, a creek empties itself into main river here from right bank. Two small pagodas on right bank of said creek. Cocoa nut and plantain trees here. There is a road from hence to Tavoy.....15 miles.

Meinamnenai 60 miles from ie-deing-tseing & 73 from Comberee.

7th May. Commanding officer very desirous of detaining me until he should forward intelligence of my arrival. Proceeded in evening. 1 mile beyond Mee-nam-noi on left bank saw remains of a stockade. Plantain trees here. No rapids.....8 miles.

8th Tatakoo. Passed through similar country and arrived at Ta-ta-koo, a small bamboo stockade on left bank. Proceeded for two miles when I was stopped by an officer

from Canbooree, who wished me to deliver over my letters to him and to return to Ta-ta-koo, and wait until the Governor's pleasure should be made known. Insisted on proceeding as far as next stockade, where I would wait for an answer.....17 miles.

9th May. Similar country. Arrived at Luk-thoun, a bamboo stockade on left bank. Here abouts are the "tien-nyit" trees, which yield a fine crimson or carmine dye.

10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, & 15th. As no answer was received I insisted on advancing. Jungle on each side. River deeper and no rapids, arrived at remains of stockade on left bank, where I met another officer who had come to demand my letters, saying if given up we would proceed together. Not choosing to do so, I was detained until they should inform the Governor of Canbooree that unless allowed to proceed I should take my letters back with me.....10 miles.

16th, 17th May. 12 o'clock, no answer arrived, wished to proceed, requested me to wait one day more. Received letters allowing me to proceed which we did on the 18th passed through less hilly country and halted at a hamlet on right bank. Siamese preparing dye here: a creek joins the river here from right bank..... 8 miles.

19th May. Similar country, no rapids. Halted at huts on right bank. Siamese preparing dye here also..... 8 miles.

20th. Started and in about one mile steering due north passed by a very high hill on right bank, and 9 miles further is Canbooree.....10 miles.

No creeks lead from the river between this and Kadeing-tseing and all the picquets are composed of Talians. Large and populous towns on left bank of river which flows past the town in a north easterly direction, and another river empties itself into the main one above the town running from north 21° west. Wooden stockades fourteen feet high, well built. Chinese make great quantites of sugar here, excellent tobacco

cultivated and prepared here. Severe attack of fever, anxious to return by land, but could not persuade Governor to allow me to do so. Left it on the 11th of June for Moelmyne bearing letters in answer to those taken by me.

(A True Copy)

(Signed) R. Ware—Poll. Asst.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

No. 8. Sect. Dept.

To the Honorable R. Fullerton Esqr.
Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

Having received from the Presidency a Copy of Captain Burney's dispatch of the 31st May, reporting the exchange of the Ratified Copies of the Treaty concluded at Bangkok between the Siamese Government and the Honble. East India Company, and also a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to my address, with copy of the dispatch from the Vice President in Council to your address of the 22d ultimo, regarding military preparations at Prince of Wales's Island, I feel myself called upon to communicate to your Board my views of the line of policy which it is incumbent on us to pursue towards Siam, under the relations established by the results of Captain Burney's Mission, and at the same time to state, unreservedly, my sentiments on certain proceedings decribed in the correspondence of your Government of dates as per margin, to which my attention has been particularly drawn by the letter from the Rajah of Ligore, and which appear to me to demand the most serious notice.

From the Sec. to Govt. Prince of Wales Island to Mr. Sec. Swinton dated 20 Oct. 1826.
11 Nov. „
5 March 1827.
(The above letters have not been traced up to the present L. M. A.)

2. The Treaty of Bangkok has, in my judgment, placed the relations, both political and commercial, of the British nation with the State of Siam on an improved and generally speaking satisfactory footing, and I see no reason whatever to doubt the disposition of the Siamese to adhere to the terms of that engagement, and to perform their share of its stipulations. The result of the late war in Ava has, I feel satisfied, impressed the Court of Siam with just and adequate notions of our power, resources and military superiority, and hence I must regard as entirely void of foundation, the speculation, that any danger is likely

to result hereafter to the Settlement of Prince of Wales Island from the proximity of the Siamese on the Malay Peninsula, or from their cherishing any hostile and ambitious projects which it can be necessary to provide against, on our part, by assuming an attitude of defiance and warlike preparations. In point of fact, we have, I imagine, far more reason to apprehend inconvenience from the extreme dread of our power, operating on a timid and suspicious race, so as to impede a free and liberal commercial intercourse between the subjects of the two nations, than from the existence of opposite sentiments; and I hold, therefore, that our main, and indeed our only rational object of policy hereafter in relation to the Siamese, should be to endeavour to allay their jealousy of our ultimate views, and to derive from our connection with them every attainable degree of commercial advantage by practising in our intercourse with them the most forbearance, temper and moderation both in language and action; by striving to cultivate a friendly understanding with the Court and its Provincial Governors in our neighbourhood; and above all, by faithfully and scrupulously observing the conditions of the Treaty which fixes our future relations.

3. Entertaining these sentiments, I cannot but observe with regret, the tone which pervades all the correspondence of your President with the Rajah of Ligore, the disposition uniformly manifested to put the most unfavorable construction on all his actions, and to ascribe to him unfriendly, and even treacherous motives; to regard him, in short, as a dangerous neighbour and inveterate foe, whose ambitions and hostile projects are to be checked only by the most steady and unremitting opposition on your part. The effects of this spirit on the conduct of your subordinate officers have been very strikingly displayed in a late instance which I shall notice particularly below, and it seems to me manifest, that whilst encouraged and persevered in no confidence or good understanding

can be expected to arise between the two nations, and our intercourse with Siam will continue to be characterised, as heretofore, by mutual asperity, distrust, and irritating controversy and collision.

4. The warlike attitude and military preparations of your Government, which have attracted the notice of the Vice President in Council, as referred to in the letter dated 22d ulto.,* doubtless have their origin in the views which you have formed of the inimical purpose and dangerous projects of the Rajah of Ligore, and the duty which you conceive to be incumbent on you of opposing to them the most steady and unremitting counteraction. Unable to concur in the correctness of such views, I cannot think that any expensive equipments, or increase of military establishments at Penang are to be justified on the score of reasonable apprehension of danger from abroad, while the inconvenience they occasion, exciting the fears and keeping alive the jealousy and alarm of our neighbours constitutes a very serious argument, in point of policy, against their adoption. But a still more weighty objection is to be found in the outlay which they involve, at a moment when it is imperatively necessary that the whole of the Indian Presidencies should unite in one common effort to retrench superfluous expenditure, and to augment its sources of revenue by every fair and practicable means. Your Board will doubtless have received information from the Vice President in Council, in the territorial department, of the state of our finances, and the absolute duty imposed upon the Supreme Government to withhold funds for any expenditure, the necessity for which, to conduct the affairs of Government, cannot be satisfactorily demonstrated after the most rigid and unsparing scrutiny; and I feel confident that you will take measures for reducing your military establishment in every branch to the lowest possible scale; due allowance being of course made for the provision of garrisons at Singapore and

* This letter deals exclusively with the military affairs of Penang.

Malacca, and any additional disbursements necessarily arising out of the annexation of those Settlements to your Government.

5. No measure will tend more effectually to quiet the alarms of the native population under your Government and to prevent the recurrence of these rumours of hostile design and threatened invasion on the part of the Siamese, which have so often disturbed the peace and tranquillity of the Settlement, and caused expensive Military preparations on both sides, than the removal of the Ex King of Queda from the position which he at present occupies, in the immediate vicinity of his lost dominions and surrounded by hundreds of his refugee subjects, who will never cease to cherish the hope of his restoration, and to practise every means in their power for accomplishing it, so long as he continues at Prince of Wales Island. In considering the situation of this unfortunate Chief, and determining on the measures which we shall be justified in pursuing towards him, two points appear to me clear and undisputable; 1st. that we are entitled by every principle and usage of the law of civilized Nations, to fix the abode of a political refugee who seeks shelter within our territory, at whatever place we deem proper and convenient, every practicable degree of regard being of course paid to his feelings and wishes; 2d. that so long as he resides under our protection, it is our positive duty to prevent his making use of that residence for the purpose of carrying on hostile intrigues and machinations against a neighbouring friendly power. Independently however, of these considerations, the Treaty of Bangkok farther imposes on us an obligation to remove the Ex King from the immediate vicinity of Queda, and we are bound in honor and good faith to fulfil this pledge, as the Siamese have punctually performed their share of the Engagement, both in releasing the relations and servants of the Ex King, and in removing the pre-

viously existing duties on the export of grain, cattle and provisions. Malacca appears to be a convenient and unobjectionable situation for the future residence of the above personage, and the liberal arrangements which your Board propose to make for his accommodation at that place, together with the augmentation of his stipend from 6,000 to 10,000 dollars, which may be made one of the conditions of his ready concurrence, (although it ought not to have been tendered without the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council) will in fact greatly improve the condition of this Chief, and wholly relieve the British Government from any charge of neglecting the interests or disregarding the feelings of its ancient and unfortunate ally in the present arrangement. I request therefore that no farther time may be lost in effecting the removal of the Ex King of Quedah to Malacca, at the public expense, and under the express directions of the Supreme Government of India.

6. Having attentively considered the 14th Article of the Treaty of Bangkok, more particularly as it regards the petty Malay State of Perak, I am compelled to think that your Honble. Board has taken a view of our rights and obligations, under that stipulation, which the terms of it do not warrant, and that you have founded thereupon proceedings neither strictly justifiable in themselves, nor properly within your competence as a subordinate Government.

7. The Article in question provides simply that the Rajah of Perak shall govern his country according to his own will; that he is at liberty to render homage to Siam if he likes; that the Rajah of Ligore may send parties of men not exceeding 50 into his country with friendly intentions; that neither the English nor the Siamese are to attack, molest, or disturb Perak, and that the State of Salengore will not be allowed to attack or oppress Perak.

8. The wording of the Treaty, obviously and very judiciously, leaves it optional with the British Government, according to its own view of the case, to interfere or not in the event of the Siamese disturbing or attacking Perak or Salangore, and the engagement being between the East India Company and the Government of Siam, it rests clearly with the Supreme Government to determine the measures proper to be adopted and the cognizance to be taken of any infraction of the stipulation by the Rajah of Ligore or other Chiefs of the Siamese Nation.

9. Adverting to this consideration, it is with some surprize that I observe your Board in the instructions to Captain Low of the 18th* September last, empower that officer to assure the King of Perak that he may rely on the assistance of the British in *expelling any Siamese*, who may proceed to Perak contrary to his wishes, thus affording, to say the least, a gratuitous and possibly embarrassing pledge; that the promise of protection against Salengore, the neighbour most dreaded by the Rajah, is declared to depend on his maintaining himself in independence of Siam, by the assistance of the British Government; and that your secretary in his letter of the 18th April,* deliberately asks the question from Captain Burney, whether the Government of Prince of Wales Island is authorised to oppose by *force*, any attempt, open or indirect, of the Raja of Ligore upon Perak or Salengore.

* ? 15 Sept. Copied from S. S. vol. 138.

* Copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. Cons. vol. 346.

10. It is my duty distinctly to remind your Honble. Board, that it rests with the Supreme Government alone to determine, on an explicit report of all the circumstances of the case, whether any proceeding of the Siamese is, or is not, a violation of their Engagements with the East India Company, and what measures it may be incumbent on us to pursue, if it shall appear that any positive stipulation has been infringed; and that all acts or declarations of

your Government, pledging the Supreme Government to the adoption of any specific course on any question whatever of foreign relations, are unwarranted either by the Law or Usage according to which the political affairs of the British Nation in India are administered. At the same time, I trust I need not assure your Honble. Board of the unfeigned disposition which exists, on my part, to conform to your advice and attach the highest value to the suggestions of your local information and experience on every question properly falling within your cognizance.

11. The proceedings of the Agent deputed by you to Perak are received by me with sincere regret, and I fear furnish just ground of offence and remonstrance to the Rajah of Ligore and the Siamese.

12. It is distinctly stated, that a strong party existed in Perak, who were favorable to maintain a connection with Siam and that this party, termed by Captain Low a Siamese faction, was headed by the Rajah Mudah or Heir Apparent, and all the principal Chiefs who exercised the real powers of Government, and in whose hands the Rajah, apparently a person of weak intellect and imbecile character, was a mere pageant. The first step taken by Captain Low was to bring about a sudden and complete revolution in the Government; to cashier the Raja Mudah, and to place a party in power, which the Siamese must doubtless consider an English faction, in lieu of that which desired the Siamese connection. A Treaty is then negotiated with the Raja, in which the State of Perak engages *to the British Government* to hold no future political intercourse or connection with Siam, and is promised in return, assistance and protection, provisions as wanton and unnecessary, if it be true that the legitimate Government of Perak prefers the English to the Siamese connection, or rather desires to be independent of both, as they are indiscreet and wholly unauthorized by the instructions

with which the Agent was provided. Such an Engagement could not of course be approved by your Honble. Board. Its requisition, as the President justly observes, in his minute of the 7th November,* formed no part of Captain Low's instructions, whilst he failed to procure any instrument or document, as desired by those instructions, of a nature which could be shown to the Siamese in proof that the Raja desires to be relieved from any dependence on Siam.

* Copied from S. S. 139.

13. It appears to have escaped consideration, that the Siamese and the Raja of Ligore were, to say the least, as much warranted in sending Missions to Perak, to ascertain the wishes of the Raja regarding his future relations and to use every fair means of presuading him to adhere to his connection with Siam, as we were to depute Captain Low for such purposes; and that Captain Low's escort of forty disciplined and regularly armed sepahees, supported by a Company's Cruizer, formed to the full extent as influential and formidable a body as the 300 followers of the Raja of Ligore, concerning whom so much has been said. Our Mission succeeded in expelling the Siamese party and establishing in power those who will naturally be disposed to adhere to the English interests, yet no complaints are raised against the proceedings of the British authorities by the Siamese, whilst on our part, the Raja's conduct is stigmatized as marked with duplicity, treachery, underhand counteraction, and determined hostility, and is appealed to as convincing proof of Siamese bad faith, and utter neglect of the obligations of Treaties.

14. Improper and censurable as I must deem the proceedings of Captain Low at Perak, his subsequent attack upon Kurao, which form a subject of remonstrance in the Raja of Ligore's letters both to myself and your President, appear to me still more deeply culpable, the more especially as it plainly infringes the 2d Article of our Treaty with Siam.

15. There is evidence on record to show that Kurao had for some years been considered the boundary between Queda and Perak, and that Nakhoda Oodin was first settled at that place by the Ex King of Queda. That he subsequently received a commission from the Raja of Ligore and was considered one of the Siamese officers after the conquest of Queda is not denied, and in fact forms one of the chief grounds of accusation against the man.

16. In the instructions issued by your Board to Captain Low on the 21st* September, it was observed that piratical prahus were supposed to frequent the Kurao river and were even stated to have established themselves within the territory of Perak. He was enjoined therefore to make the above the subject of particular communication to the King of Perak, to discover if possible the haunts of these plunderers, and *to suggest the best means of putting an end to their audacious proceedings.*

* ? 15th Sept. See ante.

17. Upon what information, or what conception of his powers and the nature of the service in which he was employed, Captain Low acted, in venturing to proceed far inland to attack a place acknowledging the authority of the Raja of Ligore, no where appears; for it is to be observed, that the depositions adduced in support of that procedure, were taken subsequent to the assault from "persons seized at Kurao." It is alleged that the Chief of the place, Nakhoda Oodin, sheltered pirates, but even admitting satisfactory proof to exist of this fact, it is quite indisputable that under the 2d Article of the Treaty, and indeed according to the laws of all civilized nations, his conduct should have formed the subject of representation and remonstrance to his own Government. If that Government refused redress, the question of the proper course to be pursued would then have naturally attracted the grave and deliberate consideration of your Board and of the Supreme

Government. It is too plain however, from the tenor of Captain Low's report of the 31st January, that in his estimation the main offence of Nakhoda Oodin consisted in his acknowledging allegiance to the Raja of Ligore and disclaiming any connection with Perak, and that the real object of the attack was that "by the dispersion of Nakhoda Oodin and his party, and their expulsion from Kurao, the Siamese influence would in a great measure cease in that quarter."

18. The remonstrance addressed to us by the Raja of Ligore on the above subject must not be disregarded, and I consider that the British Government is bound by every consideration of justice good faith and policy to institute a full and formal enquiry into the proceedings of the officer who attacked Kurao, a place acknowledging the authority of Siam, without any sanction whatever from his own Government, as well as the extent of property destroyed and loss of life inflicted on that occasion; and a heavy personal responsibility will, I fear, attach to Captain Low, unless he can furnish a far more satisfactory explanation on the subject than the papers now before the Supreme Government contain. I request therefore that Your Honble. Board will call upon Captain Law for a detailed explanation of the grounds on which he acted in the above unfortunate affair, and also that you will give a full, and I need not add an impartial hearing to the complaint of Nakhoda Oodin and to the statements of any witnesses whom he may bring forward to substantiate his grievances. It will be proper also to apprize the Raja of Ligor of the steps in progress for investigating the above matter and affording redress, if it shall appear to be due. In the mean time I feel it an obligation of my public duty to request that Captain Low may be suspended from all political employment whatever, and I would further suggest to your Honble. Board the expediency of your abstaining in future from the deputation of any missions connected with political

objects to the States on the Malay Peninsula, or elsewhere without obtaining the previous concurrence of the Supreme Government.

I have &c.
(Signed) Amherst.

Meerut
The 23rd. July 1827.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 348.

Fort William 16th November 1827.

No. 25.

Letter from the Honorable R. Fullerton, Governor of Prince of Wales's Island, Singapore and Malacca, to the Raja of Ligore.

It having been frequently represented by Captain Burney that my friend still continues to entertain doubts respecting the intentions of this Government towards him and has apprehensions for which there is no ground whatever, and being anxious to prevent all possibility of further doubts, fear, and misunderstandings, I am induced to recommend that my friend will send one or more confidential Envoys to reside at this Settlement Such person or persons will be treated with all due respect, and all communications will be made through him or them. They will have an opportunity of observing the pacific proceedings of this Government and it is to be hoped that an end will thus be put to all further suspicion on the part of my friend and the friendship and good understanding now subsisting between the Siamese and British Government be strengthened and prolonged.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
Governor.

Penang
The 26th July 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 417-20.

Fort Cornwallis The 10 August 1827.

READ a letter to the Honorable Court of Directors dated 6th Instant, with the following enclosure.

* * * * * *

* of 1 June 1827.

The Bengal Chronicle * thinks we have not distinctly made out the right of the Siamese to Queda and that if it suited the British interest or policy the Penang Government would have as good a right to drive the Siamese out as they have to be there. To discuss the origin of territorial rights might perhaps be dangerous : if closely examined there are few that would not be found to originate in force. If however prescription goes for anything against the intrusion of a third party, ws should think that the Siamese have the same right to keep us out of Queda that we should have to prevent the intrusion of the French or any other European power into those States of India which are under our protection. There is no doubt that pretexts for war might be found in the one instance as well as in the other, and if the possession of the Malay Peninsula be worth a contest we should have little difficulty either in drawing the Siamese out or in finding a justification for our conduct when it is accomplished.

The question however is not whether the Siamese have a right to the Malay Peninsula, but whether peace and friendship can be maintained with them, if we interfere with what they have long been accustomed to consider as their own. A conviction that they could not, led to that article of the Treaty which has given so much offence to the Penang politicians ; those who recollect the expense of the Burmese War, will perhaps be satisfied that it was wiser to relinquish all interference with territories to which, whatever may be the pretensions of the King of Queda, we could not have the shadow of a claim.

The Calcutta Chronicle says, "If therefore it be true (and it cannot be denied) that the stipulation of protecting him against all enemies was the inducement to the King of Queda to give up the island of Penang to us we do not see how far the mere fact of his having once acknowledged the supremacy of the King of Siam is to justify [us] in acknowledging the usurpation of the Raja of Ligor &c. Now so far from this being correct, we deny that any such stipulation as protection against all enemies was ever made to the King of Queda by the British Government. We have already stated that a distinct refusal was originally given (and almost annually repeated) to interfere in any disputes with Siam. The Calcutta Chronicle has taken the unfounded assertion to the Penang Gazette as proved, and reasons from it that our Government has been guilty of a breach of faith. Mr. Canning himself could not make out the casus foederis here, there was no guarantee of the integrity of the Ex-monarch's dominions, nor any promise of protection except against other European Powers, and it is rather an extraordinary mode of argument to insist that the existence of a stipulation to protect against all enemies cannot be denied without offering the slightest attempt to prove an assertion which involves the whole question of breach of faith and to which we had given a distinct and positive denial. The King of Queda had clearly no claim upon our Government except for personal protection which he had received most completely, and it may surely choose in what place and manner it is most convenient to afford that protection.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 441-3.

Fort Cornwallis The 16 August 1327.

Minute of a Conversation with the Ex Rajah of Kedah at the Council House on Monday the 13th August 1827.

Present

THE HONORABLE the GOVERNOR

R. Ibbetson Esquire

Secretary to Government and Malay Translator.

The Honorable the Governor referred to the letter received from the Ex Rajah of Kedah a few days ago and expressed his regret that His Highness had not come to a determination to proceed to Malacca according to the desire of the Supreme Government. The Governor also again, as at the former interview, assured the Rajah of every attention being paid to his comfortable accommodation at Malacca and that his annual allowance would be encreased to 10,000 Dollars and an extensive tract of land allotted to him. The Rajah replied that it appeared the Company were not disposed to assist him in the recovery of his kingdom; all he requested was to be permitted to quit this place and proceed where he pleased, that no pecuniary consideration could induce him to take up his abode at Malacca, that his sole object in coming here was to solicit assistance which the late Governor Mr. Phillips had promised and that it was entirely owing to Mr. Phillips' frequently requesting him to remain and assuring him that the Supreme Government would effect his restoration, that he was induced to remain so long. The Rajah also stated that Captain Burney, on his arrival from Bengal and prior to proceeding to Siam, assured him he was deputed by the Governor General to effect his return to his own country and he was induced at that officer's

suggestion to write a letter to the Siamese Government; that he never supposed Captain Burney was impowered to give up his kingdom to the Siamese by Treaty. The Rajah added that he would be disgraced in the eyes of all the surrounding Malay States if he removed to Malacca, and he again entreated the Governor not to be offended with him when he stated, that he could not feel disposed to proceed to Malacca. and he again requested permission to depart from this Island and follow his fate. The Governor after again expressing his anxious desire that the Rajah would proceed forthwith to Malacca intimated that His Highness might return home, and that he should again hear from him a few days hence, urging the Rajah to reconsider the matter carefully, for this was a point upon which the Government must be urgent, in order that all chance of collision and difference with the Siamese may be avoided.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 347.

Fort William 17th August 1827.

No. 14. Sect. Dept.

To the Honble. the Governor in Council
Prince of Wales Island.

Honble. Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 18th ultimo.

2. We beg leave to express our sincere thanks for the prompt and full explanations which you have been pleased to afford us on the subjects adverted to in our letter of the 22d June,* and we feel satisfied that with the knowledge now possessed by your Honble. Board of the State of our present financial embarrassments, no exertions will be spared by you to introduce the most rigid economy in to all departments of your Government, and to avoid all increase of expense not of an indispensable nature. We do not consider it to be within our province to institute any comparison between the rates of pay, allowance and equipments of the Madras troops, Military Staff &c. now on service at Prince of Wales Island, including the subordinate stations of Malacca and Singapore, and those of the troops and Staff formerly sent from this Presidency. We may allude, however, to what is stated by your Board with respect to the style of equipment of the Madras force as being probably beyond what the local situation of Prince of Wales Island requires, and we are happy to observe, that you propose to recommend to the Madras Government the reduction of whatever may be found to be superfluous. We should hope that amongst these may be included the train of Field Artillery, which is considerably in excess of what used to be furnished from this Presidency. With reference also to the communication recently made to your Board by the Right Honble. the Governor General respecting the

* not copied.

course of policy to be pursued towards the neighbouring States, and to the little danger to be apprehended from any attack on their part or that of the King of Siam, we should imagine that the Field Artillery equipment of bullocks might be entirely dispensed with, by which a very considerable saving would be effected.

3. We regret that any expressions of ours should have led your Honble. Board to misapprehend our meaning as to the military preparations of which we spoke, and to conceive that our observations on that subject were founded on private reports. If your Honble. Board will be pleased to refer to our letter to your address, you will perceive that the source from which we drew our information was the letter from the Government of Fort St. George acquainting us with your requisition for Gun Bullocks sufficient for a field battery of Eight 6 Pounders with their limbers and waggons complete. In transmitting to us the document in question the Government of Madras had observed that presuming that the measure of equipping a Battery of Eight 6 Pounders with bullocks &c. complete had the concurrence of the Supreme Government, it had sanctioned the suggestion of its commissary General for giving effect to the requisition. As we were wholly unapprized of your intention to maintain the Field train at Prince of Wales Island, we naturally concluded that your Honble. Board had determined on augmenting your military force with advertence to local considerations, such as eventual collision with the Siamese, the anticipation of which indeed, in 1825, had induced you to apply to this Presidency for Military reinforcements.

4. The explanations contained in your letter now under acknowledgment have shown us the cause of the application to the Government of Fort St. George, namely, your being principally guided by the opinion of the officers commanding with a view to the

maintenance of the efficiency of the force as sent from Madras, and being unwilling that any deterioration should take place while the troops were at your disposal, and we are happy to observe, that previously to the receipt of our letter of the 22d June, you had countermanded the dispatch of the additional number of carriage cattle required.

5. We are happy also to observe by your President's Minute that you do not propose to keep up the Field Train to the extent originally contemplated, and as no Gun Bullocks we believe were formerly maintained at Malacca and Singapore, we are not without hopes that they may still be dispensed with at those stations. In any sudden emergency, if cattle sufficient to move the field pieces at Malacca and Singapore could not be procured, the local authorities would doubtless feel themselves to be warranted in compelling the Native population to afford their temporary aid.

6. We cannot conclude this dispatch without expressing our concern that your Honorable Board should have thought proper to place on record such severe reflections on the character of a public officer employed in Political Missions under the authority of the Supreme Government and whose meritorious services in that capacity have obtained for him the repeated acknowledgments of the Governor General in Council. Captain Burney, your Honble. Board is fully aware, has always represented the alarm excited at the Court of Siam and in the mind of the Chief of Ligore to have arisen from exaggerated reports of military preparations at Prince of Wales Island, the real nature and extent of which could not be accurately known to them, while the explanations offered would not be readily believed by such a jealous and suspicious people as the Siamese. Concurring as we do with Captain Burney in opinion as to the evil effects to be apprehended from the appearance even

of Military equipments, at such a time, while the Siamese Court have just witnessed the result of our attack on the dominions of Ava, and are still doubtful of our ulterior designs with respect to themselves, we feel that the arrival of the Madras troops at Prince of Wales Island fully equipped for Field Service, with a train of Artillery such as had not before accompanied the relief of troops from Bengal, was unfortunately but too well calculated to confirm the apprehensions of that timid and distrustful Government, and to shake any confidence which the ratification of the Treaty and the assurances of the local British Authorities might otherwise have induced it to place in our good faith. We trust, however, that the tenor of your President's last letter to the Rajah of Ligore and of the communications which have been made to the Court of Siam direct from this Government will have the desired effect of quieting its fears, more especially as the removal of the Ex-King of Queda from Prince of Wales Island under the recent instructions of the Governor General will afford it a palpable and satisfactory proof of our sincere desire to cultivate with it the most friendly understanding and good will.

7. A copy of this correspondance will be transmitted to the Government of Fort St. George.

We have &ca.

(Signed) Combermere
" W. B. Bayley

Fort William
17th August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141. pp. 476-493.

Fort Cornwallis The 23 August 1827.

Captain Low 17 August 1827.

To John Anderson Esquire
Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Instant, transmitting enclosed by direction of the Honorable the Governor in Council, reports from the late Envoy of Siam addressed to the Supreme Government and Resident Councillor at this station, and stating, that as these have reference to my proceedings as Envoy to Perak and at Korow I might take the opportunity of submitting such explanation as I should think necessary in reply to the observations of Captain Burney.

I beg now respectfully to submit the following remarks.

Extract from a letter from Captain Burney to the Sec. to the Supreme Govt. dated 29 Dec. 1826.

Copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. Cons. vol. 344.

Para. 1. Captain Burney states that my engagement with the Raja of Perak does not contain any clause subjecting it to ratification by the Supreme Government.

This was an inadvertent omission although the necessity of such a ratification was of course perfectly understood.

Para. 3 of same letter.

Do. para. 4.

2. With respect to the actual number of Siamese stated in my report to have been in Perak while negotiations were pending betwixt Captain Burney and the Siamese Government, he observes that it is extremely hazardous to receive Malayan accounts of numbers, forgetting that Nakoda Oodin a *Malayan* pirate is afterwards allowed by him full credence for his statement against the Government and against me But this remark is of very extensive application in the East and may with equal propriety be pointed at the

Siamese. If in the one case an object was to be gained by exaggeration, it was as manifestly the interest of the Siamese to underrate the strength of the party. My statement of the number of the Siamese and Malayan Siamese, or Samsams, who left Perak just before I reached it, was mainly computed from passages contained in letters from the Governor of Ligor, or written by his order, to the Rajah of Perak. From the letter quoted in the margin we find that a Siamese force of three hundred men under an officer called Pakdee Song-Khram were sent to Perak. Surely a much smaller number than this might have sufficed to guard a simple deputation, and it is in my opinion equally unprofitable to argue that because twenty or twenty six only of the party were real Siamese, they were therefore too weak to have exerted any influence at Perak. The Samsams are Siamese in every respect but in name, as any one may be convinced of by examining those who are settled under the Penang Government, and we have yet therefore to learn that mercenaries are less dangerous people with arms in their hands than their employers. The force alluded to were quite equal to the task of subduing Perak, without other support, and especially at the period alluded to when the Raja's adherents had scarcely a serviceable musket in their possession. But the dimensions of the village which the Siamese had built during their stay on the banks of the Perak river and which I inspected on my way up would have sufficed in absence of every other proof to convince me that the accounts of the Rajah and his people of their strength by no means exceeded the truth.

Letter—Loang Pakdee to the Rajah of Perak dated 14 Sept. 1825 and others.

* Copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. Cons. vol. 344. See ante.

Captain Burney's letter dated 29 Dec. 1828.

Capt. Low's report.

In reality however it did not rest on their number exceeding twenty that mischief was to be apprehended. That number alone, backed by the internal Siamese faction which then unhappily rent the Perak Country would have been quite sufficient to have overawed the Rajah and to have made his very personal existence seem to depend on cautious simulation and unmeaning

professions of respect for the Ligor Government. Open force on the part of the latter need not have been resorted to. The very threat or insinuation of such being ultimately employed, conveyed through a Deputy or Emissary to the Rajah, would have met every end of Siamese ambition then and have ensured its future success.

While the Rajah continued subject to undue Siamese influence every public act of his must in my opinion be considered as having been vitiated and annulled.

If the strong and decisive expression of his hatred of the Siamese (a) which the Rajah made use of in the presence of two other European gentlemen, myself, and his own officers, was not consonant with his real sentiments, he must possess a greater tact at dissembling than Captain Burney will allow him to have.

(a) hinchi was the word used.

Capt. Burney's letter dated 31 May 1827 para. 3.*

It has been considered that I exceeded my instructions in making a treaty with the Rajah of Perak.

* Copied. See ante. in this vol.

Along with my instructions I received a copy of Captain Burney's treaty of [? with] Quedah, and it was by reference to the infraction of its 2d. Article "that "no Siamese force by land or water shall proceed to "Perak or settle in that Country" that my proceedings were in a great measure regulated. I only now request the indulgent permission of the Honble. the Governor in Council to plead that I was led on by an extreme solicitude to act up to what then appeared to me to be the spirit and prospective scope of my instructions and that I was not only actuated by a desire to see the Rajah freed from thraldom under a faction stimulated by anticipated advancement under Siamese rule and reinstated in his sovereign rights, but to render such assistance as might serve to check the progress of Siamese conquest in the direction of Malacca, an object which the

Para. 17 Letter of the Sec. to the Supreme Govt. to Capt. Burney dated 23 Feb. 1827.*

* Copied from this vol. Sec ante.

Capt. Burney's letter to the Sec. to the Supreme Govt. dated 29th Dec. 1826, para. 4.

Supreme Government has deemed of so much importance.

Captain Burney himself seems to have entertained the opinion that no common degree of interference would suffice to keep the Siamese from a Southern course, for he distinctly expressed his "apprehension "that the agent (Mr. Anderson) who had proceeded "to Perak and Salengore had not raised up such a "barrier against Siamese Conquest to the southward "as might afford us a right and title wherewith to "oppose the Siamese" in case of their having refused to ratify his Agreement with the Rajah of Ligor. I am not aware that the agent had instructions to take strong and definite steps for the purpose, and therefore believe that he would have much exceeded his powers had he done what I was deputed to accomplish afterwards.

I was fully impressed during my negotiations with the conviction that nothing short of an engagement of the nature of that made with the Rajah of Perak would be effectual in quieting his mind, in quelling the faction that aimed at his destruction, and in shutting the Siamese within their own boundary for the future.

It was all along clear that the Siamese had a strong party in Perak, and it now rests with the Governor of Ligor himself, whether the party shall not secretly indulge in treasonable hopes of countenance from him at any future period.

Capt. Burney's letter 31 May 1827 paras 1 & 2.

If he is really so solicitous as Captain Burney represents him to be to avoid all interference in the Perak Government his true and only line of conduct must be to inform the party alluded to that he will hence forward hold no correspondence with them. It is greatly to be wished that not only inclination, but a belief that by good faith he is best consulting the interests of Siam will urge him to

exert himself in maintaining unimpaired the friendly relations now so happily established betwixt the Court of Siam and the British Government.

Capt. Burney's letter to the Hon. R. Ibbetson, para. 9, dated 29 May 1827.*

* Copied from this vol. See. ante.

The assertion of the Governor of Ligor reported by Captain Burney that neither the Rajah of Perak or his adherents are to be relied on for the performance of engagements is a gratuitous and personal one, which may be well excused as coming from a man who is writhing under the mortifying feeling of disappointed ambition, and is decidedly inimical to that Prince. I regret however to observe that the King of Quedah should have allowed himself to utter the bitter sarcasm against the Perak Rajah reported by Captain Burney, although no person can for a moment doubt that he is a biassed witness, inasmuch as he was a party, and it is to be suspected a willing one, to the attack on Perak in 1818, under directions from Siam. The King ought to recollect that the Rajah of Perak might well retort on himself an epithet so applicable to the manner in which he lost his own country.

Capt Burney's letter to the Sec. to the Supreme Govt. of 31 May 1827 para. 4.

Letter of Capt. Burney dated 31 May 1827 para. 5.

I must conscientiously declare it to be my belief that the Rajah of Perak is an uprightly minded man, and that he is animated by a most earnest desire to fulfil his engagements with the Penang Government. Captain Burney has animadverted in rather, in my opinion, hasty terms on the small loan which was given by Government to the Rajah. Robbed as he had been by the Salengorians and the Siamese it is natural that he should desire a few articles of comfort. But it consists with my personal knowledge that the deputies who accompanied me brought with them a quantity of tin, the proceeds of the sale of which were I suppose quite adequate to defray the cost of the petty supplies grudged apparently to them by Captain Burney, and the larger quantity of this metal which besides antimony the Perak country produces ought to obviate the apprehensions of Captain Burney that the loan is not

likely to be repaid.

The charge of incapacity brought by Captain Burney, from report alone, against the Rajah has gained some colour from the events of the last few years.

That he long laboured under the disadvantages of having but few faithful officers, and of being beset by many mischievous ones, may have been apparent from my report. But it will have appeared from the same that when the occasion offered itself he made vigorous efforts to unfetter himself, and to secure as competent and responsible Ministers as the state of his Country admitted of.

It may be true that the distractions which so long disturbed Perak, did, by precluding the Rajah from the exercise of his rightful authority reduce him to a condition of political weakness, and personal inaction. It would indeed have demanded the exercise a more reflecting and energetic mind than he possesses, or I will venture to say can be found within the whole range of Malayan Princes on the Peninsula, to have combated the adverse and perilous circumstances under which he was during so many years a sufferer.

Indolence, the natural result of deprivation of power, and at all times the besetting fault of Malays, is more to be imputed to him than incapacity.

But it ought not to be forgotten that Malay Princes are guided like those of other regions by the Councils of their Ministers, which guidance counterbalances in some degree the inconveniences which want of talent in themselves might create, and we may safely pronounce that so long as they show a strenuous desire to fulfil their engagements, to the performance always of which their Ministers are equally and solemnly pledged with them, we shall

not gain any thing by an over strict scrutiny into their individual capacities. This may perhaps appear a satisfactory mode of replying to the question put by Captain Burney—what guarantee have we for the performance of engagements on the Rajah of Perak? But it might be met with the trite maxim, that a weak state hemmed in by others more powerful than itself will generally, *if left to its own free choice*, throw itself under the protection of that one which is best able to defend it. It is fair also to infer that if Perak shall in future be totally freed and exempted from *all* foreign interference, she will at the same time get rid of faction, and then gradually regain her level amongst the Petty States on the Peninsula.

I proceed now to the subject of my proceedings at Korow.

Captain Burney's letter of 29 May 1827 para. 9.

That the Governor of Ligor should feel *displeased* with me for having attacked the pirates at Korow, who it is evident have received his countenance by the attention their Chief Nakoda Oodin has met with at Ligor, is no cause of surprise to me. While he could quietly maintain a footing in a quarter free from the intrusion of strangers and unapproachable by the Rajah of Perak's subjects on account of the notoriously lawless and desperate characters of its Chief Nakoda Oodin and his gang, he would always have been enabled to avail himself of any change in the aspect of his political relations with the British for furthering his ambitious aims in the direction of Malacca and would have been sure at the outset of gaining the ready services of at least one hundred well armed and hardy pirates and a fleet of boats.

Capt. Burney's letter to the Sec. to the Supreme Govt. dated 31 May 1827 & of 29 May to the Hon. R. Ibbetson Esq.

It is the last thing which I should have expected at the hands of Captain Burney, that after having expelled a horde of pirates from the vicinity of Penang which had become too bold and too destructive to its native trade to be longer patiently endured,

and after having been honored by the public approbation of this Government for the service, any statement of the pirate Nakoda Oodin should for an instant have been listened to by him. I must confess too that I cannot perceive how he could consistently with his public capacity take so active a part in a subject which, as it had reference to pirates in the Perak Country only, became thereby properly cognizable by the Rajah of that country alone, in communication if he chose with the Prince of Wales Island Government.

Taking this subject in its broadest light and bearings and under the liberal acceptation which its parallel has borne in Europe (I allude to Algiers) and admitting for the sake of illustration that the Korow river did not belong to Perak but to Siam. I trust that I am right in asserting that the neighbouring state or states whose subjects suffered from the cruel depredations of the pirates that river sheltered, had a just right to adopt any means for their destruction.

Report on my Mission to Ligor and accompaying documents.

It is well known to this Government that the numerous and audacious piracies which during a series of years have been committed on this Coast have frequently been made subjects of representation to the Siamese authorities, and that I was once myself made the personal channel of remonstrances to the Siamese Chief of Quedah and Phoonga respecting them. But these representations never seem to have had any good consequence. I do not believe that the Siamese had either the means or the spirit to co-operate in clearing the Coast from pirates, and that they have shown the utmost remissness in keeping pirates and notorious characters out of their rivers cannot be questioned. In support of the last assertion I beg permission to draw the attention of Government to a very recent instance which in my situation as controlling the police in Wellesley Province I considered

it my duty to report—that of the notorious pirate Pakeersaib, for whose apprehension a warrant was long ago issued, and a reward offered, being then living openly in Quedah and enjoying the ostensible protection of its Siamese Chief.

Capt. Burney's letter dated 29 May 1827 para. 9.

But the claim now started and advanced by the Governor of Ligor to Korow as an integral part of Quedah is unsupported. Krean has ever been considered the line of demarcation betwixt the States of Quedah and Perak and any occasional occupancy of it by the possessors of the former was the result of superior power, not right.

Capt. Burney's letter of 31 May 1827 par. 7 & 29 May 1827 par 10.

Capt. Burney's letter to the Hon. R. Ibbetson Esqr. dated 29 May 1827 par. 10.

However Captain Burney may have helped to hamper the question by doubts, yet it is plain from his own admissions, and from his own map of the coast (which was lithographically printed at Calcutta) that the above is the true state of the case. By what specious mode of reasoning then may I ask, is a relinquishment by the Governor of Ligor of an untenable and unfounded claim to be construed into a generous concession and act of friendly condescension on his part towards the British Government and deserving suitable acknowledgments.

Capt. Burney's letter above quoted, last paragraph.

I confess I cannot see, either, how the Governor of Ligor can prove that the Rajah of Perak, whose people zealously co-operated with me in attacking the pirates, had not a right to whatever he chose at Korow without consulting him.

Letter of Capt. Burney dated 29 May 1827 to the Hon. R. Ibbetson.

Captain Burney has been pleased to ascribe my attack on Korow solely to a desire to assist the Perak Rajah, forgetting that however desirous I might have been to do so, yet it could only have been, as it was accomplished, ulteriorily to the instructions to root out the pirates directed to me by the order of this Government.

The character of Nakoda Oodin is of such notoriety at Penang and the demonstrations of his guilt

so numerous and glaring, that I can scarcely credit but that had Captain Burney consulted the records of the Police Office at that Island he would never have ventured to lend him his countenance. Captain Burney says (letter 31 May 1827 para. 6) that he disbelieves the depositions against Oodin because he has seen much falsehood and inconsistency in the statements and depositions of Malays, forgetting that Oodin is himself a Malay and that consequently his implicit reliance on all that man has said is plainly and in open terms contradicting his own reasoning, if such it can be termed. It may well be asked (if Captain Berney's disbelief is well founded) how Nakon Oodin is to support his statement unless by the falsehoods and inconsistencies of Malayan witnesses. But the proofs do not rest on oral testimony only, although if but one twentieth part of what depends on the latter were proved against him in a *competent* Court he could not escape banishment for life. His own papers seized by me at his haunt bear ample testimony to his delinquency. They show that whenever a piracy was committed within the jurisdiction of Penang or just beyond it, the friends of the parties who were carried off invariably addressed a letter to Nakoda Oodin making an offer of ransom, which having been agreed to, the parties were privately conveyed to a retired part of the coast and delivered up.

Papers transmitted to the Sec. to Govt.

Such however could only happen where the pirates met with no resistance from those they attacked, for otherwise they put them to death. At his haunt I found several small prows which were discovered to have been pirated from British subjects, and I rescued from slavery at Nakoda Oodin's a man who had been forcibly carried away from Penang by one of his gang. I may also observe that *Ta-eidin*, Nakoda Oodin's own son who lived with him, is a more notorious pirate even than his father, and that a warrant for *his* apprehension has lately been issued

(on a serious charge) from the Police Office. Besides the large body of evidence already deposed against him there are I believe on a moderate average fifty persons residing in Penang in Wellesley Province, who did they see any reasonable prospect of obtaining redress, would forthwith prefer their complaints against him. The very circumstances of no piracy having been committed close to Penang since the attack on Korow is a negative proof of no small weight against him. But the fact is that as Nakoda Oodin is not amenable to the Court of Judicature of Penang for crimes committed beyond its Jurisdiction, and as those of which he has been personally guilty are perhaps chiefly of this description, we can easily account for his audacity in coming to Penang. His boldness since has no doubt been matured by hopes of what he calls redress and justice to be obtained through the intervention of the Governor of Ligor and Captain Burney.

Capt. Burney's letter 31 May 1827 advising resort to the Court

Capt. Burney's letter 29 & 31 May 1827.

The property captured from the pirates (consisting principally of arms and boats) with the loss of two Sepoys and many wounded, was under the authority of the Government sold by public auction, and the proceeds, about two hundred and seventy Dollars, were divided amongst the Sepoys and other armed men who had cheerfully supported the privations and fatigues incident to the two expeditions. The statement of Oodin therefore of his loss of property is little deserving of attention, particularly in consideration of the lawless manner by which it was acquired. It has been exaggerated beyond all bounds, and it has come to my certain knowledge that he deposited his most valuable effects in Penang and then encouraged his gang to hold out to the last.

Capt Burney's letter 31 May 1827 para. 7 & 8 stating his loss & that of his adherents.

I beg in conclusion to be permitted to offer a very few remarks on the reports which have by Captain Burney's account been propagated in Penang and Quedah tending to irritate the Siamese against the Penang Government.

Capt. Burney's letter 31 May 1827.

I will not pretend to state whether the King of Quedah ought or ought not to be charged with having assisted in spreading these reports. My situation certainly gave me reason to know that until the Treaty received the final ratification of the Supreme Government many absurd and injurious reports were brought by boats and prows from Quedah which I should have thought must have been rejected, by natives even, upon the least reflection. But my experience induces me firmly to believe that the inveterate feeling which still rankles against the Siamese in the breasts of the Quedah Malayan population, joined to the acts of designing Chuliahs and Chinese may unfortunately, and quite independent of the King, be expected for some time to come to prove fruitful sources of such reports. What men wish for they cannot always be prevented from expressing a hope to possess, and by fabricating dangerous reports the Malays of Quedah in some measure seek their revenge, and thus retaliate on their conquerors from whom they deserve anyhow to be freed.

But whatever apprehension the Siamese may have expressed I am inclined to think and believe that they really felt little. I received constant information from Quedah of the state of affairs there, and nothing that I could learn countenanced the belief that people were flying from Quedah under fear of an attack from Penang. On the contrary, from what we know of their habits and characters, the classes of natives alluded to by Captain Burney were the least likely to be afraid of the British. During the whole of the period alluded to and up to this day the native trade betwixt Penang and Quedah has been uninterrupted, excepting by the pirates previous to their destruction at Korow. Frequent interchanges of friendly acts have passed betwixt the young Chief at Quedah and myself, his people having had free ingress to Wellesley Province, while an unceasing trade in Cattle (during the last two years) has been kept up betwixt the

Honble. Company's subjects in the Province and the natives of the Siamese Provinces of Daloong and Patani. This friendly intercourse I have cultivated and am still cultivating with success, and everything now wears the aspect of peaceful times.

I now respectfully solict the indulgence of Government for the length of these remarks in consideration of the manner, not devoid of asperity, in which Captain Burney has deemed it not beneath him to become the channel of conveying very grave complaints against me from the noted pirate Nakoda Oodin to the Supreme Government and to the Government of Prince of Wales Island, and which, as I am at a loss to reconcile with any just or recognized public principle I can only ascribe to private feeling.

(Signed) James Low Captain
Late Envoy to Perak.

P. W. Island
17th August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 493-494.

Fort Cornwallis The 23 August 1827.

To John Anderson Esquire

Secretary to Government

Fort Cornwallis.

Supt. Wellesley Province 20 August 1827.

Sir,

With reference to the numbers of emigrants from Quedah and their expected increase, and the advantage which would be derived by settling them as cultivators immediately on their arrival instead of permitting them to wander about in quest of a precarious livelihood, I have the honor to solicit the sanction of Government to my advancing small supplies of grain to those who may show a ready disposition to take land on lease securing the repayment in the crops.

2. I beg to enclose Depositions taken by me several months ago, and a report just received from the Constable of Teluk Ayer Tawar District, which will serve to point out the probable extent to which Emigration from Quedah is likely to proceed and the causes of it.

3. I am happy to be enabled to report that the leasing out of land proceeds without hardly any intermission.

I have &c.

(Signed) James Low Captain
Acting Superintendent Wellesley
Province.

Province Wellesley
20 August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 494-5.

Fort Cornwallis The 23 August 1827.

Extracts from Depositions.

Brahan, a native of Alloastir in Quedah, states that the Siamese Chief there exacts now one half of the gross produce of the rice fields, besides frequent exactions which are not paid for, and independent of 12 Gantongs of paddy as the tax on each house.

Che Aris, native of Bukit Penang, in Quedah, on being asked what taxes the Siamese levy, states that they take one half of the grain produced on the fields and that they exact fruit and provisions at any period which suits their convenience.

Haddee, a native and agriculturist of Quedah, states that the Siamese take one half of the gross produce of the fields and exact Grain and provisions and fruit at other times according to their pleasure. That besides there is a regular tax on each house of 12 Gantongs of paddy, which they compel the women to beat out. If they don't, the husbands or male relatives are beaten.

Brahan, Che Aris and Hadee are asked if there are any other exactions. They state that there is the usual "Gindang" or tax for the Rajah's Great Drum. Each house pays according to the wealth of the owner, the poorest pay 3 pice or one "Kindirree", houses with a wooden stair a rupee, houses inhabited by women only who are poor one Kindirree.

Deposed before me this 26 day of April 1827.

(Signed) James Low Captain
Acting Superintendent Wellesley
Province.

Report of the Constable of Teluk Ayer Tawar

Translation.

Shaik Madar begs leave to report to Captain Low that a man from Quedah, named Pootih, had fled with his four children into this district because the Siamese people take the children of the people of Quedah and send them to Siam, and he wishes to stay in the Company's territory.

Moreover Pootih states that numbers of people are desirous of flying from Quedah, and settling in the Company's territory, because the Siamese take their children. Your servant has sent Pootih to wait on you.

20 August 1827.

(Signed) Shaik Madar.

A true Translation

(Signed) James Low, Captain
Acting Superintendent Wellesley Province.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 496-500.

Fort Cornwallis The 23 August 1827.

Translation of a letter from the Ex Rajah of Kedah to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

[The first para. merely reiterates objections to going to Malacca.]

Moreover Captain Burney went and made an engagement with Siam intending to send me to reside at Malacca without my knowledge, and when Captain Burney came from Bengal to proceed to Siam he stopped at Pulo Penang and called upon me at my house. He then informed me that he was directed by the Governor General to proceed to Siam, to negotiate with the King of Siam and request back my country of Siam and the release of my sister and children, that the Governor General intended to return them to me, and Captain Burney requested me to write letters to all the Chiefs at Siam. I was much pleased to hear the words of Captain Burney as above stated, and I accordingly wrote 5 letters to the Chiefs at Siam, which were delivered to Captain Burney to be conveyed there. It appears that Captain Burney proceeded to Siam by the desire of the Governor General of Bengal to be the bearer of the wishes of the Governor General; when the King of Siam therefore did not comply with the desire of the Governor General of Bengal, for what reason did Captain Burney comply with the wishes of the King of Siam in a manner very improper and tending to lower the opinion of the power of the English King of Europe, who has always been famous from the most remote times? When Captain Burney returned from Siam he again came and called upon me at my house. He then for the first time informed me that

he had begged my sister and children from the Siamese to return them to me, and he desired me to remove from Pulo Penang and go and reside at Malacca. I replied to Captain Burney that I was entirely averse to complying with the arrangement which proposed my residing at Malacca, and why did he make a treaty with the Siamese after his own will and without informing me before proceeding to Siam, for the country of Quedah is my own country, descending to me from my ancestors? It is not a Siamese country and how could he go and make an engagement with Siam respecting my country without my knowledge and how should I conform to such an engagement? Such was the answer I gave to Captain Burney on every occasion when he met me, such was the nature of my discourse.

Now Captain Burney reports to the Governor General Rajah of Bengal that I spoke to him in a manner as if I wished to go and reside at Malacca and I am astonished at Captain Burney that he should go and tell the Governor General of Bengal words which I never spoke. When I came to Pulo Penang it was not to seek quiet or refuge for myself here, I came only relying upon the treaty of Mr. Light, the Agent of the English Company with my father, when the English Company requested Pulo Penang from my father.

During the time Mr. Phillips was Governor of Pulo Penang, how often did I request to quit this place, but Mr. Phillips told me that the Governor General of Bengal was disposed to assist me and frequently advised me to remain here until my friend's arrival to take charge of the Government and since that I have been led to expect assistance.

Now again Captain Burney has made arrangement with Siam desiring me to go to Malacca, but I present compliments to the English Company and Governor

General Rajah of Bengal and all the Council and all my friends and beg to state that it is not agreeable to me to conform to Captain Burney's negotiations with Siam and therefore request to make preparations for quitting this place Pulo Penang, for my heart is impressed with a conviction that the proceedings of Captain Burney are evidently oppressive to me, for is it customary with the English Company that one person may go and make an engagement for another person's country without the consent of the owner of that country, and is it usual for one merchant to sell another man's goods of his own accord and without the consent of the owner of the goods? Such are the proceedings of Captain Burney and every person who knows them will decide whether they are good or bad. To this day I have great reliance upon the English Company and Governor General, Rajah of Bengal and Council and all my friends that I shall be permitted to depart from hence, for I have been waiting a long time here and according to Malayan notions it is a great disgrace that I have remained so long.

Dated 27th Mahurrum 1243 or 20th August 1827

A true Translation

(Signed) John Anderson
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang
21 August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, p. 523.

Fort Cornwallis The 29th August 1827.

John Anderson Esquire
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 16th Instant I have the honor to state for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that I am not aware of any Chinese or Chulia traders from the Kedah country having fled from there at the period referred to and taken refuge here. Neither did I hear of any cessation of commercial intercourse at that time between Kedah and this Island. A few months ago however, obstructions and impediments to the trade of Kedah were reported to have arisen in consequence of the Siamese authority there monopolizing the export of grain, which it is said is still done in a great degree, but with a few exceptions to particular and favored individuals. Extortions and oppression were also complained of by the Siamese Authorities at Setul, Purlis and Lingoo, which induced about two hundred of the Ryots or poor inhabitants of these places to quit and come to this island in the Months of March and April last. Among them was the Chinese Captain or Head Chinaman of Lingoo. Whether any have come into Wellesley Province I cannot say.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. Caunter
Superintendent of Police.

Police Office
25th August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 141, pp. 501-522.

Fort Cornwallis the 29th August 1827.

To His Excellency
The Right Honorable Stapleton
Lord Combermere G. C. B.
Vice President in Council
My Lord. FORT WILLIAM.

* * * * *

2. The representations of Captain Burney relative to the fear of the Siamese are already refuted by the best of all proofs, the admission of the Ligor man himself that he never believed the rumours made so much of by Captain Burney, magnified apparently with his usual object of making difficulties in order to ensure to himself credit for overcoming them. We believe the whole of their fears to have been entirely fictitious. Had the circumstances stated by Captain Burney really taken place we must in the nature of things have heard of them, and the replies to our letter on the subject from the Police Office will show that such reports had no foundation on facts. From these it appears that no emigration of Chuliahs or Chinese (or cessation of trade) took place in consequence of the alarm of our preparation, but in consequence of the oppression and violent proceedings of the Siamese themselves the Malay inhabitants were as usual quitting the country. As to the trade and communication with Quedah the report of the Master Attendant shows an increase instead of a diminution of the prahus and junks trading to Quedah.

3. So much has been said privately as well as publicly of the additional number of troops at this Presidency, it becomes necessary to state that but little addition has been made to the troops, nor have the late arrivals at any one time exceeded those of the 65 from Bengal. During the process of relieving the

25th. the number of troops on the island amounted to not less than 1960 men and yet we heard nothing of these alarms, even after the Bengal 25th had left this, there remained nearly 1500 men more than we have now. If the relief of the troops is to be dispensed with in deference to the fears of the Siamese, the business of Government must be entirely suspended. Were we not now accustomed to the inconsistencies of Captain Burney, it would appear to us extraordinary that that gentleman should now dwell so much on the supposed increase of our military force, when he himself long since gave his decided opinion that an augmentation of the Military and Marine forces at this Presidency would be absolutely necessary in the event (the very one he has been instrumental in bringing about) of the Rajah of Ligor permanently annexing Quedah to his territory "and such a powerful and jealous nation as the Siamese coming into immediate contact with this Settlement." These were the opinions of Captain Burney in his report of 29th of May 1822,* since which the means of the Rajah, Military and Marine, as well as his political influence, have, by the management of Captain Burney, been much encreased. To prevent the circulation of reports is beyond our power, how indeed can such be prevented when the Government of Siam itself bestows favors on those who bring false reports of our proceedings and thus pays a premium for misinformation.

* See later.

4. We must again express our surprize that Captain Burney should make the idle tales of the day, fit only for a Bengal Newspaper, the subject of a public address and found on them conclusions so injurious to the Government under which he has lately been serving.

5. Captain Burney we perceive persists in his assertions of the facility of inducing the King of Quedah to remove to Malacca. Captain Burney was left by our President in full power to effect that

arrangement and certain we are he found every assistance from the Resident Councillor, and if the matter was so very easy, we regret that he did not himself succeed better. To the desultory and irresponsible observations of Captain Burney on this point, we have only to oppose our most solemn declaration that every possible means have been tried, every argument used, to induce the Ex King to go to Malacca, and we are now compelled to give it as our decided opinion, that although he will quit this island if required, nothing short of actual force will induce him to go to Malacca. It must be obvious that we can have no motive for keeping him here; we have a much greater interest in his removal than Captain Burney can have; we originally proposed it ourselves, always have and still continue to think it the best arrangements, and if the loose assertions of such a person as Captain Burney be taken in preference to our declaration, we can only regret that the latter is found of so very little value.

6. The Ex King has been all along buoyed up by expectations of assistance from us, the reservations under which these assurances were given "by amicable arrangement only with the Siamese" he has never understood, and in the last conversation we had with him, he positively asserted that Captain Burney on taking leave of him when proceeding to Siam, expressly told him he was going to obtain his restoration to his kingdom. In respect to the final arrangement for his removal, we can only await the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, which will certainly be most punctually obeyed.

7. Captain Burney we perceive has artfully enough endeavoured to connect the political arrangements of Captain Low at Perak with the attack on the pirates in the Korow River, and a trifling supply of arms, for the purpose of enabling the King of that country to assist in their expulsion; whereas in truth they

had no possible connection with each other. The attack on Korow would have taken place, even tho' Captain Low had never visited Perak. Captain Burney has stated in his usual rambling style "It is "the active part which Captain Low has taken in "the internal affairs of Perak and in assisting that "poor Chief to bring his territory and subjects under "his authority which appears to me to have led that "officer into the questionable proceeding of attacking "and destroying Korow, a place which even if the "Siamese had no claim upon, it is far inland, and "beyond our jurisdiction. This proceeding has given "to the Siamese some cause to tax us with a breach "of the Treaty in the very last article upon which "I had hoped we should ever have been charged." This is strong language, yet divested of all its artificial colouring to what does it amount? A gang of pirates have been plundering vessels, robbing along the coast and carrying the plunder to Korow, a village of which Oodin is the Chief. Their haunt was discovered, they were attacked and dispersed, 40 miles beyond the limits which Captain Burney himself assigns to the Kedah territory. The attack was made with no view of hostility to the Siamese who had no concern in the country, nor had it any reference to or connection with political relations with them, and yet Captain Burney argues on the act as affording to the Ligor man some cause for taxing us with a breach of the Treaty. When people require pretexts it is easy to find them, the question is whether the cause, the pretext or ground of accusation be just. If this be a true one of that description Captain Burney himself must answer, for it was his authority which in our judgment fixed the boundary, and the Krean river we affirm to have been the original boundary of Quedah and Perak, expressly mentioned as such in repeated authentic documents and we never before heard a question of doubt started on the subject nor would such have been started

now but to serve a particular purpose. Captain Burney has always professed himself well acquainted with these matters. Map making has been a favourite and we have reason to know not an unprofitable pursuit. But the attack on the Korow river took place in the month of January, no complaint was ever made to us by the Ligor man, we never heard it noticed until Captain Burney himself reached Quedah in April. The conclusion is irresistible that he himself from his illjudged compliance with every wish of that Chief gave rise to the complaint, and there are other reasons for believing that but for him it would not have been started, and we must again repeat our decided opinion that when made, such should have been at once resisted and set at rest instead of being allowed to be thrown down as another bone of contention between this Government and the Chief of Ligor. The benefical result of the dispersion of the pirates at Korow has been sufficiently evinced in the complete cessation of piracy since that measure was resorted to. That Nakoda Oodin was the aider, abetter and protector of the gang is indisputable, and as to his character it appears by our records that this man was a professed pirate five years ago and was so represented by the Chief of Ligor himself in his letter to Mr. Phillips, the then Governor, in July 1822.

8. Captain Burney in one part of his letter observes as an argument against the attack on the pirates that Korow is beyond our jurisdiction, in another part he regrets that Nakoda Oodin was not allowed to plead in the Court of Judicature. No pirates are admitted within the jurisdiction of this Court, and for a noted pirate, one of the common enemies of mankind whom we are bound to destroy to be allowed to appear in a Municipal Court against an Act committed in a sovereign capacity beyond its jurisdiction is a novel idea certainly. Had this Court possessed

Admiralty jurisdiction Nakoda Oodin must have appeared before it in quite another character, and we have no doubt that a sufficient number of competent witnesses would have appeared to ensure his condemnation. If the rivers on the Malay Peninsula abound with pirates the sooner they are destroyed the better, and there could not be a more appropriate commencement of that necessary work than at Korow. The regular course on such occasions is to require the State protecting pirates to disperse them. If unwilling, or as in the case of Perak, unable it is our duty to assist them and do it ourselves. We are bound by the Treaty of 17 March 1824 to co-operate with the Netherlands Government in the destruction of pirates, and the Straits of Malacca is the portion of sea we must be expected to protect.

9. Of Captain Burney's proceedings relative to Perak and Nakoda Oodin we have already stated our sentiments, and in stronger terms certainly than we should have thought of doing could we have anticipated that that gentleman's view of the case would have been so readily adopted by your Honorable Board. Captain Burney in exchanging the Treaty had no authority to enter into new negotiations on any point with a Native State without communication with us, nor were we aware that the relative situation in which Captain Burney stood to this Government authorized his commenting and animadverting on our proceedings, and we must add and with sincere regret that we never contemplated that on points so nearly connected with the interests of this Presidency and bearing so directly on our public conduct, any decision would have been formed on the mere reports of Captain Burney without affording us the means of explanation, and we hope and trust that your confidence in us does not rest on the slender tenure of co-incidence of our opinion with the ever-changing sentiments of Captain Burney. To enumerate the endless contradictions and inconsistencies in the

writings of Captain Burney would require more time for us to write and probably more time for others to read than could well be spared, but when any come in our way they may as well be noticed. To the arguments used by Captain Burney in July 1827 we oppose the reasoning of that gentleman in September 1825.

10. But Mr. Anderson apprehends that this chief still meditates interference with the Government of Perak—" *of course he does and will continue to do* " *so until we avail ourselves of the power which we* " *now possess of entering into such an alliance with* " *Perak as may preclude Siamese interference alto-* " *gether.* I distinctly showed in my report of the 1st " of August that the Chow Pya considered Perak as " a Siamese territory—that I had denied it and had " only been able to wave the discussion without " settling the matter either way. My agreement " however was so drawn *out as to afford our agent at* " *Perak the means of precluding by express Treaty* " *with its Chief the interference of the Chow Pya of* " *Ligor with the country and government of Perak* " *on any pretence.* At Queda I could never have " prevailed on the Chow Pya to resign by Treaty all " Siamese right of supremacy over Perak. I con- " tented myself with preventing the force which he " had prepared from proceeding to that country and " destroying it, and *with securing to ourselves the* " *right of attacking any detachment of Siamese armed* " *men or boats that we might find to the Southward,* " and I conceived it would rest with our negotiator " at Perak *to devise means for precluding Siamese in-* " *terference in the many other forms in which it may* " *be attempted. Unless therefore some further mea-* " *sures than those adopted by Mr. Anderson be* " *concerted with both Salengore and Perak* it is " manifest as that gentleman fears that the whole of " his labors will especially benefit the Chow Pya of " Ligor only, and that *His Highness will have made*

" *us the agents in securing to himself an easy and* " *undisturbed control over the Government of Perak.*
" The Chief of that country is evidently surrounded
" by factious Chiefs and intriguing subjects and unless
" we engage with him by Treaty not to admit
" of Siamese interference with his Government, the
" emissaries of Ligor will of course continue to alarm
" and direct him, and the Chow Pya of Ligor seek to
" establish Siamese control thro' their Agency."

11. Now be it remembered the Preliminary Treaty with Ligor in respect to Perak has been confirmed and we now find Captain Burney condemning the very measures of Captain Low which he before pointed out as the only course that could prevent His Highness of Ligor from " making us the agents in " securing to himself an easy and undisturbed control " over the Government of Perak." The plain and simple matter of fact is that the Chief of Ligor never intended to adhere either to the Preliminary Treaty made by himself or that with his Master of Siam. He calculated on the underhand and indirect means resorted to as sufficient to defeat both, by preventing the King of Perak from taking advantage of the Articles in his favor. The active measures pursued by Captain Low, all in strict almost literal conformity to Captain Burney's view of the case above quoted, counteracted his plans, placed the King of Perak in a state of independence and gave effect to the only one article of the Treaty of which this Government entirely approved.

12. Captain Burney argues much on the impolicy of interfering in the internal affairs of Perak. We agree with him entirely in respect to Perak as well as every other neighbouring state, but we maintain that no such interference has taken place beyond what became necessary and indispensable in consequence of the 14th Article of the Treaty. Captain Burney has always argued much on the advantage

of that article, as giving us the power of preventing the Siamese from encroaching on Perak, and if it amounts to prevention we admit the advantage would be great. To give it the effect of prevention was the sole and only object of our interference and to that extent only have we exerted it. Captain Burney on his return from Bangkok waited on our President as he said, for the express purpose of pointing out the necessity of sending some person to Perak for the following purposes. 1st. to explain to the King the grounds on which he would now stand in consequence of the Treaty, to explain that he was at full liberty to continue or to break the then subsisting connection with Ligor. 2d. If such was his desire or intention to obtain from him a declaration to that effect. 3d. To effect the removal of the Siamese reported and known to have been at Perak. It was our anxious wish that Captain Burney should have gone himself on this Mission, but this he declined on the plea of his desire to go to Bengal forthwith. Other arrangements were made. Captain Low was appointed to the duty, and after all was settled then for the first time Captain Burney expressed his desire to go. Captain Burney to the best of our President's recollection read in his presence the instructions given to Captain Low and said they were clear, distinct and could not be mistaken. Captain Burney then expressed his anxiety to be employed in order that he might expel the Siamese and leave the King at large to form his own opinions. Captain Low accordingly went and found the King certainly in a deplorable state. The party of Siamese had indeed retired and for obvious reasons. The Chief of Ligor had all along asserted they never had been there, and their being found there would in some degree have offected his claim to veracity. But the King was surrounded by persons in the interest of Ligor, corrupted and bribed and artfully placed there. Captain Low remained with him until he had

removed all suspected servants, placed around himself men that he could trust and had declared in decided terms his desire to break the connection with Ligor and be as the Treaty contemplated, independent of Siamese and English "to rule his country his own way." Here was the full extent of our interference, and to that extent Captain Burney himself must have proceeded had he adhered to the intention expressed. Whether he could have done so I cannot say, nay, more, we are prepared to admit that had Captain Low explained to us the real situation of the King of Perak we cannot positively say that we should ourselves have authorized his interfering so far. It is possible we might have viewed it as a hopeless case, and foregone the great benefits held forth by Captain Burney as resulting from this part of the Treaty rather than enter so deeply into the internal arrangement of another State, but however this might have been, one thing is clear, that had not that interference taken place to its full extent—in other words had not the King of Perak been completely disentangled from the trammels of Ligor, that article of the Treaty must have been a nullity, and never could have prevented the Siamese from overrunning Perak, and it is certainly rather unreasonable that Captain Burney should first claim all the credit for the preventive article, and then object to the course of measures which alone gave it effect.

13. As further proof of the inconsistencies of Captain Burney as well as to show how little right he has to argue against interference with the Native States, let us refer back to his proceedings when first appointed Agent to the Siamese States. He went from this to Quedah. The Chief of Ligor would neither meet him then nor allow him to cross the country to Ligor nor even permit him to go up the Trang River. For the latter there there was a good reason. The Rajah's armament was then in full progress. Captain

Burney then went to Poongah; we earnestly request reference to his writings from thence. The Chief of Poongah was there held up as the only person through whom a negotiation could be carried on for the restoration of the King of Queda with any prospect of success, he is represented as a friend of the King, as an enemy to the Chief of Ligor, as the person who had gained much by our occupation of Mergui and Tavoy and consequent security of Salang (or Junk Ceylon), while on the other hand the Chief of Ligor is denounced as a faithless and ambitious character, as the man of all others the most likely to oppose instead of promoting our views being himself in possession of Quedah. Captain Burney arranges with the Chief of Poongah to proceed with him to Bangkok and that Chief engages to supply elephants to carry him across, and on these promising grounds Captain Burney was sent to Calcutta to make his report. He then addresses to the Supreme Government a Memoir repeating even in stronger terms the substance of his reports to us. He then returned with full powers and credentials to proceed to Bangkok in *the manner proposed by himself* and recommended by us. In the mean time the Chief of Ligor had prepared a large armament far beyond the avowed object of any other ostensible one but an attack on the island. The measures taken had induced him before Captain Burney's arrival to send away a part and Captain Burney was permitted to visit the Chief carrying with him no other instructions than to repeat the former injunctions made by Mr. Maingy to dismiss the rest of the armament and proceed back himself to Ligore. No sooner however does Captain Burney meet the Chief of Ligor than Poongah and all that passed there is forgotten and Captain Burney comes back with a Preliminary Treaty binding the Chief of Ligor to withdraw his armament and abstain from sending any force to the Southward and binding us to expel Tuankoo Hussain from Perak and to mediate differences between Ligor and Saleng-

gore. For the making of this Preliminary Treaty be it remembered Captain Burney had not a vestige of authority from us, nor had we been previously consulted could we have given it. It was quite contrary to our policy to commit ourselves to any decided act. We expected by following the course that had successfully put a stop to the expedition to prevent further encroachment until we were favored with the sentiments of higher authorities. The strong and manifest objections resulting from so direct an interference in the affairs of the neighbouring states would of itself have induced us to pause before we authorized so decided a measure. When indeed the Treaty was made there remained no alternative. We must either have acted on it, or by refusing the mediation allowed the Chief of Ligor to pursue his projects against the Southern States. The former seemed the least objectionable course, nor do we deny that we were guided, we fear we must now say misled, by the specious promises of the Chief of Ligor and the assurances of Captain Burney, in both of which we placed unfortunately more reliance than after events have proved they deserved, and to the sudden and unhappy change of sentiment and deviation from the first intended course by Captain Burney do we ascribe the failure of this object of the Mission. Here then arose and from the act of Captain Burney himself the first and most decided measure of interference. In conformity with that Treaty Tuankoo Hussain was removed, and no sooner was that done than 300 Siamese occupied Perak, established a ruinous influence in the Council of that State, bribed and corrupted the servants, and intimidated the King from deriving any advantage from the stipulations in his favor. The interference of Captain Low became as already explained indispensable, a necessary and unavoidable measure to prevent our being made the instrument of promoting instead of counteracting the ambitious projects of the Chief of Ligor., Cap-

tain Burney is therefore the last man that should argue against interference with a native state. His own act brought on the first. His reasoning only betrays the predominating influence of the Chief of Ligor over his mind, and his unqualified devotion to the interest of that Chief. The interference was in his judgment right and proper in removing Tuankoo Hussain and opening the way for Ligor, but decidedly objectionable in the enforcement of the reciprocal obligation and as the only means of maintaining the 14th Article of the Treaty.

14 We are quite at a loss to conjecture upon what principle Captain Burney can reconcile to himself the contradictions which appear in his reports relative to the line of policy to be observed in respect to Perak, for in his Journal at Bangkok (Para. 37) he gives it as his decided opinion that "The British "Government having thus been instrumental in the "destruction of Perak, it will now perform no more "than an act of common justice to protect Perak and "prevent the Siamese replacing over that State the "yoke which the Rajah of Salengore assisted it to "throw off."

15. Considering it just to Captain Low, whose proceedings have been animadverted upon with so much asperity by Captain Burney that he should have an opportunity of submitting such explanation as he might deem necessary, we submitted to that officer copies of Captain Burney's late reports, and we have now the honor to enclose a copy of his reply, to which we request the particular attention of your Honble. Board.

To prevent as he states a suspicion even of partiality on his part towards the Rajah of Ligor, Captain Burney it appears introduced Mr. Millet, a Bengal Civilian, to the Rajah of Ligor, his son and the Ex Rajah of Quedah, and hopes His Excellency will

receive the evidence of so impartial and independent a witness in respect to the character and disposition of the Rajah of Ligor, and compare it with the opinion which his personal acquaintance of the last five years has led him to form and report to Government.

16. The personal character of the Rajah of Ligor and the Ex Rajah of Quedah must of course be widely different being of different nations and habits, and speaking a different tongue, the former in prosperity, the other in adversity. Captain Burney in this, as in several of his other reports, lays much stress upon his long personal acquaintance and intimate friendship with the Rajah of Ligor, but it appears that his two visits in 1822 to that Chief at Quedah were of a very short duration, and up to the period of his meeting His Highness again in August 1825, it is presumed there was no correspondence between them, for none is upon record. It the inference intended by Captain Burney to be drawn of the Ligor Chief is that the testimony to his character has always been favorable Captain Burney must have forgotten some of his past opinions. We could point out several expressions in Captain Burney's reports in proceeding to Poongah of a very opposite tendency. In one of his letters he states: "I do not set myself up as an "apologist for the Chow Pya of Ligor, who I believe "possesses much ambition and all the arts and cun- "ning with which that passion is usually connected "in the breasts of Native Princes," and of the Siamese Chiefs generally he observes (vide Journal para. 71) "I have found indefatigable lying forms so es- "sential a part of a Siamese statesman's duty that "it is impossible to give credit to any of their asser- "tions unsupported by proof." What circumstances have produced so striking a chance of sentiment as to the disposition of the Chief of Ligor it remains for Captain Burney to explain. It may not be irrelevant also to advert here to the state in which Captain

Burney found the Quedah country on his visit in January 1825 under Siamese rule. "Quedah (says he) "is at present in a very wretched condition; most "of the houses are in ruins and the appearance of "the inhabitants denotes poverty and disease. The "young Chief himself although attired in fine silk "and with handsome jewels, has his arms and legs "covered with itch." As far as regards the state of that country we may add to this a more recent report received from Captain Low, whereby it appears that the most grievous exactions are made from the inhabitants of Quedah, and even their children seized and sent to Siam. In our former reports we gave infinite credit to Captain Burney on the score of humanity in recovering so many Burmese captives from the Siamese; from that credit we are concerned to be obliged to make a considerable drawback when we advert to other paragraphs of Captain Burney's report, from which we are led to conclude that an equal number of Quedah Malays were consigned to slavery in exchange, and if as we fear may be the case the Malay children seized and sent to Siam are sacrificed to slavery in further exchange and to secure the support of other Chiefs to the immediate interests of the Chief of Ligor, an additional ground of regret is afforded at the failure of Captain Burney in rescuing entirely that Country from Siamese dominion, and its inhabitants from the misery inseparable therefrom.

17. We cannot refrain from expressing our opinion that Captain Burney has rather prematurely opened to the Chief of Ligor the subject of the contemplated cession of the province of the Coast of Tenasserim to the Siamese. It is a subject which we should not have alluded to at present had it not been officially placed before us. We trust however it will be remembered that the restoration of the King of Quedah and consequently the abandonment of that country by the Chief of Ligore was

one of the reciprocal stipulations recommended by this Government, and after all that has passed it can scarcely be necessary to observe that the Chief of Ligor is just the last person that should have been thought of as a confidential agent in such an arrangement and we are of opinion, founded on past experience, that Captain Burney would of all others be the most unlikely person to bring such negotiation to a successful termination. Captain Burney in formerly discussing the subject of the probable transfer of our conquests on the Tenasserim coast to the Siamese forcibly remarks (in his Memoir dated 3 May 1825) "still the more territory we cede to the Siamese the "more of human misery I fear we shall unavoidably "create." Happy indeed would it have been could we have redeemed from that state of misery a population so long and so intimately connected with us as that of Quedah has been.

We have &c.

(Signed) R. Fullerton
,, R. Ibbetson.

Fort Cornwallis
The 27th August 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 142, pp. 569-593.

Fort Cornwallis The 13th September 1827.

Minute by the President.

I have perused the letter lately received from the Right Honble. the Governor General of the 23d July with sincere regret and concern, mitigated however by the reflection that it was written on the representation of Captain Burney alone, and without having heard the explanation we had to offer on the case. The observations of Captain Burny addressed to the Right Honble. the Vice President in Council having been submitted to us it became a duty due to ourselves to explain wherever these representations either misstated or perverted facts and reasoning to our prejudice, and this has already been done, under ignorance certainly of the sentiments of His Lordship and contemplating that no final decision would pass until our explanation had been received. I can only now regret that the opinion we have expressed should have proved unfortunately so much at variance with those entertained by His Lordship. I shall confine myself here to as brief a recapitulation as may be consistent with the last explanation I have to offer on the various subjects discussed.

THE SUPPOSED MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

On this point I am still at a loss to guess from whence such a report originated: no orders were given for such by us, no circumstance occurred to render them necessary unless the directions arising out of the reported war with France, and almost immediately countermanded gave rise to them, which on comparing dates I can hardly suppose to be those alluded to. The Madras troops have been landed and the Bengal troops embarked, the distribution of the former amongst the three Settlements has been made. I know of no other military arrangements that have taken place.

The Madras troops indeed instead of coming as troops have hitherto come from Bengal entirely on the footing for Garrison duty have arrived as a Fields Force equipped for active Foreign Service. It is not impossible that this circumstance may have given rise to the rumour of Military preparations being in progress, but to all this I can only answer, that we were not aware that they would have come so equipped, and all we could do has already been done, as will be observed by my minutes, that is to propose to the Madras Government the reduction of the superfluities. It is not for us to interfere in the internal regime or arrangement of the Madras Army or to say what shall constitute the efficiency of the force: All we can say, we have said, that it should be equipped for Garrison duty and not Field Service.

THE ALARM OF THE SIAMESE.

On this part of the subject I must beg to repeat my conviction and belief that no such fears were entertained. The stir created by the landing and shipping so many troops might have given rise to them, but considering that an Envoy of Ligore was present during the time, that he brought a letter from the Chief intimating his entire disbelief of the reports in circulation, that that letter was replied to in free and full explanation of the measures in progress, I cannot think that any such fear really existed. The cessation of trade, the emigration of the Chuliahs and Chinese asserted by Captain Burney have been disproved by official documents signally unfortunate for that gentlemen's intelligence, as they unluckily for him, show an increase instead of any abatement of commercial intercourse at the very time he wrote his report.

The sentiments expressed by His Lordship in the 2d, 3d and 4th paragraphs of his letter are exactly those I have myself entertained ever since the successful conclusion of the Burmese War, whatever risk of

disputes, insults or aggression might have existed before that event, while our troops were quite inadequate to the common duties of the place, while the Siamese were insensible to and quite ignorant of our power. I have never doubted that such risk was entirely at an end, and the assumption of a menacing attitude with the view of imposing terror or alarm on the Siamese never entered into my contemplation. The appearance of such, as above explained, must have arisen from circumstances which have entirely escaped our observation. In settlements so far removed from the other Presidencies it has always been my opinion that our Military Force should be on a more respectable footing than it was before and during the Burmese War. The number is now at the strength I always contemplated as necessary, and the number admitted to be such in the letter of the Supreme Government of the 10th September 1825. It is indeed exactly the force directed by the Honorable Court, two Regiments of Native Infantry with an adequate portion of Artillery. It requires only to place them on the same footing as to establishment, Garrison instead of Field Force, as were the troops formerly employed here, but if deemed more than necessary we shall be prepared to reduce it accordingly. As to my opinion of the character of the Chief of Ligore, that has been determined by experience and attentive observation of his actions rather than of his words. I do not entertain of him a different or a worse opinion than that which thirty-five years experience of public duty in India has led me to form of every Native Chief. I rely more on their fears, than their good faith, but whatever my own opinion may be I must beg to assure His Lordship that such will never interfere with the maintenance of those amicable relations and friendly intercourse which the public service requires. I regret exceedingly the style of communication which public duty has compelled me to adopt towards that Chief since my arrival

here, no one could be more anxious than I have been that a more conciliatory and amicable tone of correspondence should commence. I had hoped that the ratification of the Treaty would have terminated all irritating discussion and the disappointment at finding a new source of contention raised by Captain Burney in his last visit, has led me to use more asperity in my remarks on that transaction than the case perhaps required; I must hope however that the proposition contained in my letter to the Chief of Ligore dated 26 July 1827 * will lead to a better understanding and the establishment of perfect harmony between us. If that proposition be acceded to, every new and existing difficulty will be removed.

* Copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. Cons. vol. 348.

PROCEEDINGS RESPECTING PERAK ARISING OUT OF THE 14th ARTICLE OF THE TREATY WITH SIAM.

On this point I must beg to express my concern at the misconception under which I have acted. The Treaty stipulated the independence of the King of that country; adverting to the importance attached to the article by Captain Burney, and to the benefits to be derived from it, it certainly did occur to me that we were interested, and bound to prevent its execution being forestalled, and its objects defeated by the underhand proceedings of the Chief of Ligore. In this belief I was fully borne out by Captain Burney himself, who tendered his services to carry into effect the very measures afterwards intrusted to Captain Low, and to which no objection was ever urged. I hold in my possession indeed a written document from Captain Burney to show that in his opinion the eventual pledge of our protection to Perak, the removal of the leaders of the Siamese party and very decided measures were necessary on the occasion. I must here revert to the main and primary objects of Captain Burney's Mission as far as this Government were concerned. By the restoration of the King of Queda it was hoped to throw the Siamese authorities back

to the distance at which they originally stood; failing in that it became the next object to prevent their coming further south. By the independence of Perak alone could that be effected and I considered myself warranted under the treaty to take the measure which seemed to me indispensable for that object. I can only here repeat my regret, at my own misconception, in having been thus instrumental in giving effect to the Treaty to an extent beyond what was strictly intended. Perak is now completely independent and in the extension of trade and co-operation in the destruction of piracy we are reaping as regards that state the advantages looked to as the expected result from the general independence of the other states on the Malay Peninsula. In due conformity however with the principles of policy laid down, I shall be cautious in future in avoiding any interference whatever with the proceedings of Ligore, in reference to Perak, further than a report to the Supreme Government of such proceedings as may come to our knowledge affecting the interests of that state.

THE ATTACK ON THE PIRATES IN THE KOROW RIVER.

On this point explanation has been given, but much misconception still appears to remain. Its removal is necessary for the exculpation of an officer acting under our own orders. It becomes indispensable to repeat that the attack on the pirates did not arise out of the political transactions respecting Perak, and was not an act of Captain Low in prosecution of or any way resulting from his Mission to Perak. It was a measure adopted more than three months after and on certain communications from the police department in consequence of a long continued course of piracy carried on by persons lurking in that river. We now enclose the copies of all depositions and of our proceedings which will show that Captain Low was not at first intended to be employed alone but

in conjunction with other Military and Marine officers and the reasons which afterwards induced his employment by himself. He acted on the occasion by the express orders of this Government. The papers now transmitted and the numerous depositions delivered at the Police Office for more than a year preceding will show that the measure had no connection with any political points under discussion, nor was such thought of at the time. Nakhoda Oodin had indeed been mentioned in some of these depositions as the Pangulah or Head Man of that place, and more particularly in the deposition given before me personally by one Mahomed Hassan, a native of Queda, but the attack was intended generally on the pirates, whatever they might be, and was not directed individually against Nakhoda Oodin, nor indeed was the decided part he had taken in their protection perfectly known until after the attack. It has never been asserted that Nakhoda Oodin himself engaged in any act of piracy, but he supported, maintained and shared the spoils of the principal pirates whose names are mentioned in all the depositions. The whole of the coast, of both sides of the Peninsula is skirted by a deep track of mangrove, jungle and swamp such exactly is Korow. The lands above it, where they rise into solid footing are at this moment and have always been in the undisturbed possession of Perak, as far as the Krean, the Northern boundary. An officer of Perak by name Che-man was originally the Pungaloo. He was attacked and driven up the river by a Siak pirate of the name of Twanko Song Poteh, who was succeeded by another Siak pirate, Nakhoda Oodin. Korow therefore formed no part of the Quedah dominions but is a mere piratical post seized like other by force from its own sovereign, the King of Perak, whose means were inadequate to expel the gang without our aid. Pirates take post up several of the rivers in the same manner and thence carry on their marauding practices. Korow, within 30 miles

of this Island, was for them a very convenient, for us a very destructive position. Unless dispersed when discovered piracy can never be effectually eradicated. Similar measures, and similar expeditions have been repeatedly fitted out by this Government, they are indispensable to the security of the petty traders, whose dealings form in the aggregate the material portion of the trade. The maintenance of the Marine Establishment at these Settlements is expressly intended to prevent the regular formation of piratical bodies of that description; several more are known to exist in the rivers between Salengore and Malacca, and between the latter and Singapore. Our Marine Establishments being complete I certainly contemplated the adoption of decisive measures all along the coast of the Malay Peninsula, whenever the States within whose limits they were, either refused or were unable to break up such combinations themselves, but if the course hitherto pursued and proposed to be continued is deemed objectionable, it becomes necessary to pause and consider of some other expedient. Had the possibility of the Chief of Ligore claiming a right to the Korow country ever suggested itself, of course a communication to him would have been made as well as to the King of Perak; but we found nothing whatever on our Records to warrant even a doubt on the subject. The communications on the occasion passed therefore between us and the King of Perak, and are now transmitted with this dispatch. The Krean and not the Korow river has invariably been stated as the boundary in every map, chart, and report. The letter alluded to by Captain Burney as having been written by the King of Salengore twenty years ago can scarcely be considered as any authority, for it rested with the King at that time to claim any part or the whole of the country, and if he claimed only as far as Korow, he probably knew the little value of the tract between that River and the Krean, the lower part of which except to Perak can be of no

use to any one. To Perak indeed it is most advantageous, the river dividing into innumerable creeks through swamp and jungle, which afford them secure refuge and retreat on any notice of attack. The publication of Mr. Crawfurd alluded to I never saw, nor should I probably have attached much confidence to a newspaper article; but had either of these documents come under notice at the time, our proceedings would have been affected, because under the circumstances in which we stood to the Chief of Ligore, His Lordship may be assured the most scrupulous attention would have been paid even to possible contingencies, but holding in my possession a geographical sketch of the Siamese states compiled by Captain Burney himself dated 10 April 1825 and signed officially as Political Agent to these states in which the Krean is distinctly stated as the "Southern boundary of Quedah" I should probably as I do now have considered it as an indisputable authority, supported as it is by the reports of the public officers employed on this island. Captain Burney himself in his letter to Mr. Ibbetson and his communication to the Chief of Ligore then reported, seems to admit distinctly that the Krean was the boundary, and if so, it is somewhat extraordinary that he should start the idea that an attack on pirates so many miles beyond it was an infringement on the Quedah territory. That letter certainly conveyed to me the very first doubt I ever heard raised on the case, and it is certainly singular that while the high and more valuable part of the territory remains undisputed in the possession of Perak that the question should rise as to that of use only to pirates. If our information and authorities have unfortunately misled us on this point it must be to us a matter of most serious regret that we have inadvertently afforded grounds for so serious a charge as the infringement of the articles of a treaty and on the territories of another state, one of the very last acts we should be willingly guilty of: That

property was plundered, captives seized and carried to Korow, will, I trust, be admitted as indisputable, after perusal of the numerous documents in the Police Department, preceding as well as subsequent to the attack. These depositions however show but a small portion of the mischief. Many sufferers do not think complaint of any use, the means of recovery of loss not being within reach, and here I may ask, did Nakhoda Oodin or his principal, the Chief of Ligore (if he was so) ever take any steps to interrupt these practices? None that we know of. Did either the Chief of Ligore or the Pungula Nakhoda Oodin ever communicate to this Government the proceedings going on? Certainly not. Did the Chief of Ligore ever notify to us that Nakhoda Oodin was his public officer? No! what conclusion then could we come to but this, that the acts committed had the sanction or at least connivance of both? That the character and conduct of Oodin was so well known that his principal did not dare to acknowlege him. It never certainly occurred to us that the clandestine and unacknowledged establishment of an agent of Ligore within the territory of Perak could establish in the former any right over the country of the latter, nor could we imagine that the constant importation and sale of plundered property, the seizure of captives, their sale into slavery or their ransom could go on habitually at the very place where Nakhoda Oodin was the head man without his knowledge, and certainly these circumstances afforded strong corroboration to the depositions subsequently taken.

It is much to be regretted that Captain Burney, before he so warmly adopted the views of the Chief of Ligore, and took up so decidedly the cause of Nakhoda Oodin did not communicate with the authorities on this island and obtain authentic information on the whole subject, the absence of which and the report written under that deficiency have produced so complete a misconception of the whole object and inten-

tion of the attack on the Korow pirates. I left this for Singapore a few days after Captain Burney's arrival with the ratified Treaty, and had no time to enter into particulars, but I certainly intended that he should and concluded that he had seen all the depositions and proceedings respecting Nakhoda Oodin. It has always been my practice to communicate to him every document connected with the subject of his late Mission, and it has been his, and with all propriety, to require their production, nor can I well account for the misinformation under which he appears to have written his report of the 31 May 1827,* respecting that affair. I have acted on the occasion under the following impressions.

* See Copied from S. S. vol. 141.

First. That the Krean was the boundary between Quedah and Perak, that Korow being many miles to the south of the Krean was within the Perak and not the Quedah territory.

Second. That all the piracies, murders and robberies reported in the various depositions now sent were committed by pirates coming out of the Korow river, and there sheltered and protected. That the dispersion of the gang was indispensable for the termination of a course of robbery and violence destructive to the trade as well as to the lives and properties of our subjects, and discreditable to the Government. Judging of the future intentions of the Chief of Ligore from my own knowledge of his past proceedings, I do not deny that I considered his unavowed establishment of Nakhoda Oodin at Korow as intended to further some ulterior views he might have on the Perak country; but I must distinctly declare, that an eventual and distant contingency could never in my opinion have warranted the use of actual force in counteraction; That such would not have been resorted to even to oppose an open and direct aggression on Perak itself and therefore that an attack on him or his forcible expulsion on such considerations alone never entered into my contemplation,

and that (as will appear by the papers connected with the subject) the dispersion of the pirates was the only object in view. The orders now received respecting Nakhoda Oodin are certainly replete with difficulty and embarrassment. We are directed to admit him to a hearing and to confront his accusers, the order being positive must be obeyed. Notice must therefore be sent to the person to appear and as we are bound to hear all he has to urge, so must we endeavour to collect again the witnesses who have formerly deposed against him, and that will I fear be a matter of much difficulty, as they are mostly inhabitants of other countries. I annex draft of a letter to the Chief of Ligore on the subject.*

* letter of 12 Sept. fram Beng. Sec. & Pol. 348.

In respect to the orders for the removal of the Ex-King of Quedah to Malacca I regret that we have not yet received a reply to our reference how far we are to exercise our discretion in permitting him to depart from our territory should he desire to abandon our protection; but as we may soon expect the Hastings Frigate, and as it is evidently the desire and direction of the Supreme Authority that he should at all events be removed, measures may than be taken to enforce his removal in a vessel which will afford accommodation for his family and followers.

The Right Honble. the Governor General has further directed that Captain Low be not employed again in any Political capacity. His present employment in charge of Province Wellesley can hardly be said to be of that description, nevertheless as it necessarily brings him in contact with the frontier and the subjects of Quedah, it may be necessary to enjoin on his part particular caution in his intercourse or communication with the generally disorderly inhabitants posting themselves on the frontiers, and directing him to report on all occasions to the Government before he has recourse to any measures calculated to give offence to the Quedah authorities. As Assistant

to the Superintendent of Lands his services will for a time at least be required on this island. The constables and police officers on Province Wellesley will be directed in virtue to make their reports to the Police Office in George Town.

The injunction of the Right Honble. the Governor General to abstain from any future Political Missions will on my part be scrupulously observed, and I must here take leave to offer some retrospective observations on those in which I have had any part.

I took charge of the Government in 1824, with the determination of having nothing to say or to do with Siam itself or any of its dependent states, or those of the Malay Peninsula. I considered it to be our object of policy to avoid rather than seek any contact or communication with them whatever; I have unfortunately been led away from the determination by the altered circumstances of the times. The application received from Sir A. Campbell in September 1824 to endeavour to induce the Siamese to assist in the war against Ava led to the first attempt at communication. The occupation of Mergui and Tavoy by our troops and their supposed contiguity to the Siamese Chiefs in that quarter seemed to point out the necessity of some direct communication. The uncertainty as to the course likely to be pursued by the Siamese Government itself during the war rendered some means of obtaining an insight into their views and sentiments indispensable, and this object under the idea of using the intermediate agency of Chiefs on our frontier, led to Captain Burney's appointment as Agent to the Siamese States; other objects of local interest were no doubt involved; the restoration of the King of Queda, our ancient ally, had ever since his expulsion been considered an object in which the political interests of this island as well as the reputation of the British Government were deeply involved; negotiations had been opened

with the Chief of Ligore by my predecessor to effect that restoration, that object therefore formed a main inducement for continuing Captain Burney in that course of further negotiation. In consequence of the favorable prospects held forth in progress of that officer's proceedings through the means of the Chief of Pungah, Captain Burney was sent to make his report to the Supreme Government which induced the determination of setting on foot the Embassy to Siam itself. In the mean time occurred the armament at Queda by the Chief of Ligore; whether such was really intended against this island must now remain a matter of speculative opinion only; it was certainly however much too extensive for the object avowed, the attack on Salengore. Its destination probably depended like that of other simultaneous preparations in the neighbouring states, on the event of the war. An armament so very near us certainly first led me to an attentive revision of the Political Records and a deliberate consideration of the relations in which we stood to the Siamese and Malay states around us. The impolicy of allowing the former to overpower those states and thereby to place themselves in immediate contact with all our settlements in the Straits seemed to me to be clear and obvious and I considered myself bound to prevent such a contingency as far as it could be prevented without involving ourselves in actual hostility, pending reference then made to the Honble. Court. Had I found on the Records of this Government any decided opinions of the Home Authorities, such as would have satisfied me that they considered our interference a greater evil than the one apprehended in the extension of Siamese dominion, I should of course have adopted another line, I should have allowed the Chief of Ligore to pursue his objects of conquest and permitted his flotilla to pass through the harbour. Perak and Salengore, and probably all the Southern States would, in that case, have long ere this been completely under Siamese dominion.

Ignorant of what might be the views of the Honble. Court on such a contingency it became my sole object to ward off for a time an occurrence, which if completed must have made the evil irreparable. To that end all my measures were directed and they have so far proved successful ; the further spread of Siamese dominion has been arrested by the attitude assumed. In the first instance we may be assured by that only, for without the demonstration at least of actual means, any reasoning, arguments, or even treaties would be of little avail with a native state. Next followed Captain Burney's preliminary arrangement with Ligore, out of that arrangement arose the Mission of Mr. Anderson, and out of the confirmation of that arrangement by the 14th article of the Treaty arose the Mission of Captain Low to Perak, the object and nature of which I have already explained. It will thence I trust appear that no Mission has ever been deputed during my Government, except such as immediately arose out of a course of proceeding adopted by Captain Burney and subsequently sanctioned by the Supreme Authority and to my conception required for the advancement of public interest. The objects of such Missions no longer exist, and I gladly revert and with full confidence of their strict propriety to the principles on which I set out ; That the less political discussion or intercourse we have with neighbouring states the better! It will be to me a lasting source of regret that the aberration from these principles has brought upon me the only censure from Superior Authority I have ever met with during thirty-eight years service, and I trust His Lordship will be assured that nothing short of positive instructions from Superior Authority will ever induce me to resort to any such Political Missions again.

(Signed) R. Fullerton.

Fort Cornwallis
The 4th Septr. 1827.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 139, pp. 44-46.

Fort Cornwallis The 2d November 1826.

To

John Anderson Esquire
Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council, a report of the result of my negociations with the King of Perak.

The Hon. Company's Cruizer Antelope, on which I embarked, together with the Schooner Zephyr, reached the Perak river a few days subsequent to our leaving Penang, and I am happy to observe that by the cordial exertions of Captain Elevon, Commander of the Antelope, both that vessel and the Zephyr were carried much higher up the river than had been anticipated, thereby obviating much trouble and delay in forwarding the Mission to Allahan, the present residence of the King.

His Majesty with his retinue came down to meet me at Bunder, and was received with due honors, the Escort saluting him with three volleys of musketry. The Mission reached Allahan the 10th day. His Majesty saluted me with fifteen guns, and treated me otherwise with every mark of attention and respect.

Captain Elevon, and Mr. Assistant Surgeon Frith of the Bombay Establishment favored me with their Company. To both of these officers I feel particularly indebted, the former affording the most cheerful and ready assistance with his men and boats, and the letter at my request, as there was no medical person with the Mission, most cordially supplying medical aid to it and to the escort.

The great anxiety the King feels to regain his independence induced him to expedite the negociations, but some delay arose from the distance which the principal disaffected Chief had to travel after having been summoned to the King's presence.

I have &c.

(Sd.) James Low Lieutt.
Political Agent.

Prince of Wales Island
2d October 1826.

Bengal Secret and Political Consultations, vol. 348.

No. 45.

Fort William 16th November 1827.

To the Honble. R. Fullerton Esquire
Governor in Council of Prince of Wales's Island.

Honble. Sir,

(1) To be copied from S. S. vol. 142. (2) Copied from Beng. Sec. & Pol. vol. 347.

We have had the honor to receive your dispatch of the 6th September last, (1) in reply to the letter from the Right Honble. the Governor General dated 23d July. (2)

Govt. of P. W. I. dated 26 July (3) Do. 27 Augt. (4) Sec. to Govt. of P. W. I. 29 Augt (5) Do. 20 Sept. (6) Do. 10 Octr. (7)

2. The previous dispatches from your Honble. Board to His Excellency the Vice President in Council and from your Secretary of the several dates noted in the margin, relating to the affairs of Ligore and Perak, have also been under our consideration.

3. By the documents which accompany your dispatch of the 6th September it now appears that the attack made by Captain Low on Kruow was not connected with the political arrangements for the negotiation of which that officer was deputed to Perak, but originated in special instructions furnished to him by your authority. Captain Low therefore stands acquitted of the serious responsibility which, in the absence of the necessary information regarding the transaction in question, and under the inference unavoidably arising from the papers before transmitted, the Governor General was led to consider as attaching to him. The former orders issued regarding that officer are in consequence revoked.

4. The evidence of the piratical habits or at least of the harbouring and abetting pirates and participating in their lawless gains, which has been adduced by your Board against Nakhoda Oodin unquestionably affords strong persumption of the guilt of that person and it is much to be regretted that this was neither forwarded for the information of the Supreme Government, nor even alluded to in the correspondence

upon which the view taken in the Governor General's letter of the 23d July of the proceedings against that person, was founded. But for the still unsettled relation in which Korow stands towards the States of Queda and Perak with regard to the question of jurisdiction, the example which was made of that nest of pirates would have been entirely satisfactory.

5. We are fully satisfied of the entire conviction entertained by your Board that Korow was a portion of the Perak territory, when with the consent and approbation of the Rajah of that country you resolved on chastising the pirates who had so long infested the neighbouring coasts. But [with] reference to the still undetermined question of right it is to be regretted that any plea was afforded to the Rajah of Ligore to complain of an aggression on his alleged territory and dependents, and it would have been more fortunate if previous to resolving on the extreme measure entrusted to the execution of Captain Low, a distinct intimation had been made to the Ligore Chief of the proofs you had obtained against Nakhoda Oodin and his associates, and of your intention to root out the pirates who infested the Korow river, accompanying such communication with an invitation to him to assist in their effectual suppression.

6. It is true that as you were entirely unaware of any claim on the part of the Ligore Rajah to Korow, and of Nakhoda Oodin being stationed there under his authority, and never entertained a doubt that Korow was a portion of the Perak territory, you could not have considered it necessary to invite the Ligore Chief to cooperate in an attack on parties not residing within his jurisdiction, more especially as his entering the territory of Perak to assist in seizing and destroying the pirates would not have been agreeable to the Rajah of Perak. We cannot however divest ourselves of the impression that the Perak Rajah was not ignorant of the fact of Nakhoda

Oodin's holding Korow under the authority of the Rajah of Ligore, nor or that Chief's claim to the place in question, and of its actual occupation for some years past as a part of the Queda State.

7. With respect to the Map of Captain Burney, in which the Krean River was laid down as the southern boundary of the Queda State, it is sufficient to observe, that that officer must be supposed to have made it so, to the best of his belief, founded on all the information he could procure, but although such authority would justify the presumption that the fact was as assumed by him and acquits you of an intentional act of aggression on the territory of a neighbour, it is evident that if the Rajah of Ligore should succeed in proving his right to the country between the Krean and the Korow, the British Government is answerable to him for the error into which it has fallen.

8. We trust therefore that the Rajah of Perak can produce conclusive evidence of Korow being a portion of Perak, but should the Rajah of Ligore still assert a claim to it as a part of Queda, no time should be lost in inviting him to come forward to disprove the right which Perak has so long been considered to possess to all the country lying to the southward of the Krean. You will at the same time impress on the Ligore Rajah the right which all nations possess to seize and punish pirates wherever they may be found. Your having acted on that principle in authorizing the attack on Korow renders it necessary that this tone should be assumed with the Rajah of Ligore with a view to justify your sending troops into a territory which he asserts to belong to Queda, but having already made so severe an example of the presumed pirates, we do not consider it expedient that you should require him to punish Nakhoda Oodin for past transactions, although in truth the justification of Captain Low's proceedings can only rest on the pre-

established fact that Nakhoda Oodin and his associates were pirates, and therefore obnoxious, to be treated as such. It will be proper to warn the Ligore Rajah that as he claims Nakhoda Oodin as a dependent, the British Government must look to him for taking effectual measures against the renewal of piratical practices on the part of that individual, and that in the event of his failing to do so, and of farther complaints being brought against Nakhoda Oodin for acts of piracy, the British Government will be compelled to employ the means at its command for putting down those who by universal consent are deemed a common enemy.

9. Nakhoda Oodin should at the same time be apprized of the conclusive evidence which has established his guilt to your conviction, and be informed that unless it is in his power to disprove satisfactorily the charge brought against him, his present petition for compensation of the loss alleged to have been occasioned by the attack and plunder of Kurow will be dismissed. He should moreover be warned of the consequences of his returning to his former lawless habits.

10. We do not deem it necessary to enter farther into the question of Captain Low's proceedings at Perak, as, with advertence to your President's minute of the 4th September last, we are satisfied that your Honble. Board is now fully apprized of our views and sentiments with regard to the policy to be observed towards Siam and the petty states of the Malay Peninsula.

11. With regard to the Ex-King of Queda we conclude that before this time you have carried into effect the instructions conveyed in the Governor General's letter of the 23d July for his removal from Prince of Wales's Island. Should you have consented to his proceeding to Siack or Delli, instead of Malacca, it will no doubt have occurred to you to warn him in

explicit terms that on proof of his attempting at any future period to collect followers at either of those places with a view to attempt the recovery of Queda, or of his abetting or being privy to the equipment of any piratical expeditions from thence against the Siamese or Malay States on the Malay Peninsula he will at once forfeit the provision he now enjoys from the British Government, and will subject himself to such further marks of its displeasure as the nature of the case may require,

12. Should he have conformed to the wishes of the Supreme Government and consented to reside at Malacca, he may be assured that so long as he conducts himself in a proper manner, abstains from engaging in intrigues directed against the Siamese, and having for their object the recovery of his former Dominions by force, he will continue to envoy the the favor and protection of the British Government, but that a contrary course on his part will infallibly entail on him the loss of the provision which he now receives.

We have &ca.

(Signed) Amherst
,, W. B. Bayley
,, C. T. Metcalfe.

Fort William
16th Novr. 1827.

Home Series, Miscellaneous, vol. 660, p. 827.

To

The Honorable the Secret Committee
of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Para. 23. With regard to the Ex-King of Queda we have stated to the Government of Prince of Wales's Island in our Letter above referred to, of the 16th November last, that we conclude the Governor in Council has carried into effect the instructions conveyed in the Governor General's Letter of the 23rd. July, for his removal from the Island. Should he have been permitted to retire to Delli or Siak on the East Coast of Sumatra, instead of Malacca, we have suggested to the Government of Prince of Wales's Island the propriety of warning him, in explicit terms, that on proof of his attempting at any future period to collect followers at either of those places, with a view to attempt the recovery of Queda, or of his abetting or being privy to the equipment of any piratical expeditions from thence against the Siamese or Malay States on the Malay Peninsula, he will at once forfeit the provision he now enjoys from the British Government, and will subject himself to such further marks of its displeasure, as the nature of the case may require. We have added, that, if the Ex-Rajah shall have conformed to our wishes, he may be assured that so long as he conducts himself in a proper manner and abstains from engaging in intrigues against the Siamese, he will continue to enjoy the favor and protection of the British Government, but that a contrary course on his part will infallibly entail on him the loss of the provision which he now receives.

* * * * * *

We have &c.
AMHERST
W. B. BAYLEY
C. T. METCALFE.

Fort William
20th February 1828.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

To

THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

Para. 4. Having received a further communication from the Supreme Government respecting our course of proceeding with the Ex-Rajah of Quedah, in which we were informed it was not deemed advisable to attempt the forcible removal of that Chief from this Island, we have intimated to him, in the most decided manner, that while he persists in declining to retire with his family to Malacca, Siack or Delhi, all pecuniary assistance and allowances will be withheld, and he will forfeit all claim to the future consideration of the British Government.

5. In the several communications we have authorized to be made to the Ex-Rajah, we have been guided entirely by the principles laid down by the Supreme Government. We regret however that all our arguments for the voluntary removal of the Ex-Rajah have as yet been in vain. He has received no allowance whatever since December 1827: nor will he be granted any by this Government while he remains here.

6. Every necessary precaution has been taken to prevent the Ex-Rajah proceeding to Quedah, or any of the places interdicted in the treaty, and we have been in communication with the Siamese authorities on that subject, as well as in respect to measures for checking piracy, which still prevails extensively in the vicinity of this Island. A notification has also been issued, strictly prohibiting all persons from

selling vessels or arms and Ammunition to the Ex-Rajah of Quedah or his immediate followers and dependents, and reduced as he now is, it is not by any means probable that he will make any attempt to regain his authority at Quedah by force. A vigilant watch will however be kept over the Chief, in order that the provisions of the treaty made with Siam and ratified by the Supreme Government may not be infringed on our part.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
„ R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 24th October 1828.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

To

THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Para. 2. We regret that it is not in our power to report the departure of the Ex Rajah of Quedah from this Island. He lately expressed a desire to proceed to Perak; but this we of course positively prohibited, being at variance with the treaty with Siam. Every means short of actual force have been used to induce the Chief's departure for the East Coast of Sumatra or Malacca.

3. It is satisfactory to report that the Perak Country being now entirely relieved from Siamese interference, the commercial intercourse is encreasing, and we continue to receive from the Chief of that Country assurance of his desire to cooperate in the suppression of piracy along the coast. Some of his Chiefs lately recaptured a small junk which had been taken by pirates in the close vicinity of this Island on the passage from Quedah, and every assistance was rendered to the sufferers.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
,, JOHN ANDERSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 24 November 1828.

Home Series
Miscellaneous
Vol. 676.

To

GEORGE SWINTON, Esqre.
Chief Secretary to Government
FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit replies to certain questions put to me by the Right Honorable the Governor General during his visit to this Coast, they have been made in communication with Major Burney to whom I have again to express myself much indebted for the benefit of his information.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

TAVOY
the 8th April 1829.

1st. Is the nature of the country which forms the boundary between our territory and that of the Siamese, and others west of the Kingdom of Ava, of that difficult and unaccessible nature, as to render unlikely the incursion of considerable bodies of plunderers? Have you any apprehension of the tranquillity of the country being disturbed by such external and irregular attacks, to which the Chiefs of the Country from whence they may come are not parties?

1st. Those who have travelled between the Tenasserim Provinces and the Siamese Territory to the Westward and Southward of Moulmain describe the Country to be of the most difficult and inaccessible nature. Nothing is known of the frontier to the Northwest of Moulmain. Incursions on the side of Siam are most unlikely. There is not the smallest chance of the Siamese disturbing the tranquillity of these Provinces and indeed, if ever that nation become troublesome, one or two cruizers sent to the mouth of the Menam, would bring the Court of Siam to its senses, in the same manner as the Government of Fort St. George brought it in the infancy of our power in India. On the side of Ava, however, to the Eastward and Westward of Moulmain, there is every chance of the continued incursions of plunderers and freebooters.

* * *

8th If it were determined to relinquish the Provinces on the Tenasserim Coast, they might be ceded in part or in whole to the Siamese for an equivalent either in money or territory. If again Masters of the Provinces, what might probably be their conduct to the inhabitants now under our protection?

* * *

8th. The conduct of the Siamese to the inhabitants of these Provinces during the late War, and their conduct in Quedah, and more lately when they occupied Southern Laos, render it most probable, that the first thing that nation would do, in the event of Tavoy and Mergui being ceded to them, would be,

to seize and drive into Siam all the Burmese inhabitants they might find there. Perhaps the same measure would not be adopted with respect to the population of Amherst and Moulmain because it consists chiefly of Talains, towards whom the Siamese do not bear the same inveterate feelings as they do towards the Burmese, and because the force that would be sent from Bangkok to occupy the ceded territory would be composed of Maha Yothas Talains, many of whom would find relatives and old friends among the population of Moulmain. In either case however of cession either to Ava or to Siam, very few of the inhabitants of any portion of these Provinces would be disinclined to follow the British force within whatever spot it might desire to confine itself.

9. Supposing Amherst and Maulmain which do not pay their expences to be ceded to Ava, and Tavoy and Mergui which do, to be retained, could a a boundary be found which would present less danger of interference and collision than the Saluen River?

9th, 10th & 11th. The advantages of ceding Amherst and Moulmain to the Siamese would be 1st that the population within that tract would not be likely to suffer so much as the inhabitants of Tavoy and Mergui would do under the same circumstances: and 2dly that we should free ourselves from the difficulties of protecting so long and troublesome a frontier as the River Saluen now is, extending from

10. Altho' it evidently the policy of the Siamese, being the weaker power, to have a strong

intermediate power, closing every avenue to the approach of the Burmese, the object might still be gained by leaving us Amherst Province, and by their obtaining Tavoy and Mergui.

Would they be willing to give up for this consideration Junkceylon or Queda, and to allow the return to Amherst of the 28,000 Talains, who have been by them transported to Siam? Probably with this addition, the revenues of Amherst might be greatly augmented.

11. Is it not likely that Siam would agree to any terms we might propose if made aware that the alternative would be the restoration of those Provinces to the Burmese?

Lat. 16° at Amherst to the frontiers of China. No range of mountains exists to the Southward of the Saluen which could be selected as a boundary, but most of the streams which fall into the sea in this direction take their rise among the frontier hills of Siam. We might establish one of these streams, the Kyouk-padown, which falls into the sea near Kalagyon, as the line of demarcation between the Siamese and our territory, and between this line and the Ye River, we might leave the country desolate and waste, removing the very few inhabitants now residing in this interval to the Southward of Ye, and keeping up thus a space of jungle and waste between ourselves and the Siamese. The disadvantage of ceding Amherst and Moulmain to the Siamese would be, that we should bring the Siamese in close contact with the Burmese, and lead to the renewal of all that cruel system of warfare and desolation which formerly prevailed between these two nations. The number of Taliens in the Kingdom of Siam, has been variously estimated, from 40,000 to 20,000 Souls. A great portion of these Taliens voluntarily emigrated into Siam, from the oppressions of the Burmese. They have now married and intermarried in Siam

and they form so important and useful a portion of the population of the country, that Major Burney is of opinion, it would require almost as many miracles to persuade the Court of Siam to consent to their coming and joining us, as the King of Egypt required before he could be prevailed upon to permit the departure of the Israelites from his Country. There is no doubt however, that many of these Talıens would be most happy to leave Siam, and place themselves under our Government, could they be accompanied by their families.

There is some difference of opinion in the Court of Siam as to the policy of obtaining any territory on the Coast of Tenasserim, and Major Burney doubts whether that Court would sacrifice any thing or be willing to give us any other territory, in exchange for any portion of the Tenasserim Provinces. He doubts also, whether the threat of restoring the territory to the Burmese would have much or any effect. Yet, as the King of Queda refuses to quit Penang, as his continued residence there will prevent any good understanding between ourselves and the Siamese in that quarter, as some persons are of opinion that his restoration to his kingdom will increase the fame and character of the British Government, and as some explanation is due to the Siamese for the King of Quedah not removing from Penang—upon these grounds, Major Burney would recommend some negotiation to be opened with the Court of Siam overland from Amherst, quietly and without any expense. Mergui was longer than any other place on this Coast a portion of the Siamese Empire, to which it is still conveniently joined. Under all circumstances perhaps that Province could be best ceded to the Siamese, engaging only that the inhabitants should be at liberty to remove higher up into our territory, where there is an abundance of room for them. The Palan river, which flows from the Siamese hills into the Sea in Latitude about 12° 59′ could be established as the boundary between the

Siamese and our Province of Tavoy. By having a post at Mergui the Siamese could maintain good and correct knowledge of all our proceedings on this Coast, respecting which their suspicions and fears are now so often excited; and Major Burney is of opinion, that the occupation of Mergui by the Siamese might render that post an outlet for some portion of the commerce of Bangkok into the Bay of Bengal, and lead to the resort into our territory of some part of the large Chinese population of Siam. The cession of Mergui would only deprive us of the Sapan forests up the Tenasserim River.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184,

To

THE HONORABLE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

4. It is observed by the Acting Resident Councillor in his letter under date the 25th February that "The Siamese have a very small force at Quedah and this, it is supposed, offers a great temptation to attack by some of the most desperate refugees, assisted by pirates from other quarters. A question naturally arises whether the British Government is to be expected to guarantee the present possession of Quedah in the tranquil possession of the country and guard the coasts as formerly engaged with the Malayan Government and whether the Siamese should not be bound to keep up a sufficient force for their own protection as well as to cooperate against the numerous pirates infesting this neighbourhood, as the Malayan Chief did in former years. This Government has been called upon by the Siamese Authorities at Quedah to prevent any infringement of the treaty and to keep the numerous Malayan refugees in order, and this has been done as far as possible; but the best precautions will sometimes not avail and we are burthened by an encreased expence in maintaining armed vessels, additional police &ca. to keep such a disorderly mass of refugees in check." The measures taken by the Acting Resident Councillor were approved of on the return of our President from Malacca.

5. The Ex-Rajah of Quedah has not, we regret to observe, shown any inclination to remove to Malacca, and while he remains here, there is little doubt that he will endeavour by the aid of his numerous relations

and adherents to harass the present possessors of his late kingdom. His son, brother-in-law, and nephew are the leaders of the parties which have made some feeble and unsuccessful attempts upon the Siamese posts at Purlis and Quedah. It is but just however, to the unfortunate Chief to observe, that he denies in very positive terms, all participation in the proceedings of the Chiefs alluded to and he has expressed his entire inability to control them. Indeed, there are grounds for believing that these Chiefs having no visible means of subsistence, are in some degree driven to desperation, intent only on plunder and utterly regardless of the ultimate result as concerns the Ex-Rajah.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.
(Signed) R. FULLERTON
,, R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 21st April 1829.

27 July 1829.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184,

Secret and Political Department.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,
LONDON.

* * * * * *

HONBLE. SIRS,

Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

Para. 4. Considerable inconvenience has been experienced from the continued residence of this Chief at this Island, in consequence of the impossibility of preventing his relations and dependants carrying on acts of piracy in the neighbourhood and a sort of depredatory war with the Siamese at Quedah. On this head several communications will be found on the consultations now transmitted upon which we do not deem it necessary to enlarge further at present. We would however beg attention to the opinion of the Advocate General of Bengal on several points of importance as connected with the Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

5. It will be noticed that we have had occasion to propose to the Rajah of Ligore that Commissioners may be deputed by him in order to mark out with precision the boundary line between the Honble. Company's possessions called Province Wellesley and the Siamese Territory, as provided by the treaty made by Captain Burney (Article 3d.).

We have the honor to be &c.
(Signed) R. FULLERTON
,, R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 27 July 1829.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

TO THE HONBLE. THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

Para. 59. Your Honble. Court will perceive on a reference to the Resident Councillor's diary that the Ex-Rajah in defiance of every remonstrance, took up his residence in Province Wellesley. At the time of his first going there, little fear was entertained of his attempting to interfere with the Siamese subjects in Quedah or our own in Province Wellesley. Subsequently however letters from him to his former dependants were intercepted and forwarded to us by the Siamese Authorities. At first we considered that giving warning to the Ex Rajah to desist from such acts would have been sufficient, and we clearly pointed out to him the impropriety of such conduct, and desired that he would immediately return to his residence at Prince of Wales Island, as he was awakening the suspicions of the Siamese, who from his residing so close to the Quedah territories had become alarmed. The Ex-Rajah still however continued pertinaciously obstinate, and as reports were in circulation that armed parties of Siamese had appeared on our frontier for the purpose of watching his movements which were afterwards found to be true as reported by the Superintendent of Province Wellesley, we deemed it advisable to order a party of troops over to prevent his escape, and to give confidence to our inhabitants there who had become alarmed on the appearance of the Siamese parties.

60. Your Honble. Court will perceive that the Ex-Rajah in order to deceive the people of Quedah has mentioned that he is supported by this Government,

which tended more to alarm the Siamese, and we have to beg your Honble. Court's notice to a proclamation which was issued explanatory of the situation the Ex-Rajah stood with this Government, and warning persons from believing or giving him any assistance. We have every reason to believe that the proclamation will prove quite satisfactory to the Siamese Authorities, and convince them of the anxious wish of the British Authorities to act up to the terms of the treaty, and to prevent as far as possible the escape of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

61. The removal of the Ex-Rajah to Province Wellesley has been duly reported to the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
,, R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
the 13 February 1830.

Factory Records, Straits Settlements, vol. 184.

To THE HONORABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST INDIES,

LONDON.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * * *

The Ex-Rajah of Quedah.

Para. 30. In our General Letter of 13th February we took occasion to draw your Honble. Court's attention to the Proceedings of the Ex-Rajah of Quedah, who by removing from his residence on this Island, and proceeding to reside on the opposite coast (Province Wellesley) against all the remonstrances of the authorities here, had roused the suspicions of the Siamese Government as to the wish of this Government to depart from the terms of the treaty entered into with them. Finding the Ex-Rajah obstinate in his own views, we deemed it expedient to refer the subject to the Supreme Government, and we have now only to request your Honble. Court's perusal of the answer received to that reference.

31. The Supreme Government in consequence of the distressed situation and circumstances of the Ex-King has been pleased to overlook his misconduct in opposing the wishes of this Government, and has ordered us to offer him the alternative of removing to Malacca on 10,000 Dollars per Annum, with the payment of all arrears due him from the date of the cessation of his allowance, or if he still persists in remaining at Penang to sanction the payment to His Highness of a stipend of 6,000 Dollars per Annum.

32. The duty of negotiating with the Ex-King has been deputed to Captain Low and Mr. Nairne, and they have been instructed to press particularly the acceptance of the first of the offers held out to him. We are not as yet enabled to report to your

Honble. Court the result of their conferences on these important points, but we have every reason to believe that the Ex-King will receive the proposal for his removing to Malacca with a decided negative. In this case, and on his removal to Penang, which by the orders of the Supreme Government is imperative, proper means will be taken for informing him of the consequences which he may expect to result to himself and his adherents and followers, from any further attempt at political interference with the Siamese authorities.

* * * * * *

We have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
,, R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
the 30th June 1830.

Home Series
Miscellaneous,
vol. 672.
(unpaged)

(Copy.)

To

G. SWINTON Esqre.
Chief Secretary to Govt.
FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

* * * * * *

Para. 4. I have already reported my having received a very friendly communication from the Siamese Governor of Raheng, who sent a deputation to me by order of the King of Siam, inviting our traders to visit his territory. I intend, should His Lordship in Council approve of my doing so, to depute an officer to Raheng, being convinced that many advantages are likely to result from the interchange of friendly visits with the neighbouring Chiefs, from whom we may ultimately succeed in procuring all the Cattle required for the European Troops at Maulmain.

* * * * * *

6. Our occupation of the Tenasserim Provinces has effectually checked the system of Man Catching that formerly prevailed to so dreadful an extent to the Southward between the Burmese and Siamese. Many years however must I fear elapse ere our interference will be attended with the same humane result in putting down the like horrible system of border Warfare between the Burmese and Inhabitants of Laos.

I have deemed it my duty to address the Ministers of Siam regarding the captures alluded to by Doctor Richardson, but more especially with reference to the six Inhabitants of Maulmain now in Captivity at Bangkok. I have demanded their immediate release and have sent some of their relations to Bangkok to point them out, in order that every subterfuge for detaining them may be removed. I have also claimed the Burmese whose release had been

ordered by the King of Siam upon Major Burney's requisition at Bangkok, and who are now described by Doctor Richardson as being in captivity at Zemmaï; and I have further made an appeal in favor of the Taliens who were seized after they had received a protecting pass from Sir Archibald Campbell, but unfortunately for them prior to their having entered our Territory.

* * * * * *

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Moulmain
The 4th August 1830.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 677.

To

George Swinton Esqre.

Chief Secretary to Government

FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

Reports the release and return of the Eight Inhabitants of Moulmain detained at Bangkok.

Forwards translation of a letter from the Siamese Ministers regarding the Talians in captivity at Zemmai and communicates the arrival at Moulmain of the thousand head of cattle from Northern Laos.

I have sincere pleasure in reporting for the information of the Honble. the Vice President in Council the Return to this Station from Bangkok of the Eight Captives, Inhabitants of Moulmain, alluded to in my letter to your address of the 6th August last.

I beg to enclose a translation of a letter addressed to me by the Siamese Ministers, who apparently evince no desire to oppose the release of the Talians now in captivity at Zemmai. It shall be my utmost endeavour to procure their immediate deliverance from slavery. I am about to dispatch some of our principal natives to Zemmai for the purpose of identifying the two hundred and twenty five unfortunate persons who were seized after having received a protecting pass from Sir Archibald Campbell.

It will be satisfactory to Government to be assured that great advantage has already been derived from Doctor Richardson's Mission to Zemmai. Within the last two months we have received from Northern Laos upwards of one thousand head of cattle and have information of as many more being on their way to Moulmain.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Moulmain
The 3rd February 1831.

THE SIAMESE MINISTERS (Thee-Au-Yout-ta-ra, Dwa-ra-wad-du Zau-Byen-ya, Agga-Maha-Thai-na-de-pudde Woongies*) intimate to Anthony De La Combe Maingy, the Governor of Moulmain, Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, that the eight men who went from Moulmain for the purposes of trade, and who were apprehended by the Lau Bo Mhoo of Zemmai have been released and sent as far as Tha-ba or Karian Creek. They are Gna Shway Poo, Gna Pa-thee, Gna Shway Moun, Gna-Shway-tsoo, Gna Moung, Gna Shway Bo, Gna-Yan-geyn, and Gna Shway Chan, who were recognised by Pa-la-goo-wo at Bankok. As the above persons belong to the English Chief, who has sent a letter to demand them, an order has been issued to allow these eight men to return to their homes. This has been done in support of the friendship existing between the English and Siamese.

* (sic!)

The eight Burmese now released namely Gna Bo, Gna Shway O, Gna Yan Gyen, Gna Pa thee, Gna Moun, Gna Roo, Gna Shway Moun, and Pan Pan Moun, were apprehended by the Chiefs of Zemmai and sent to the Golden City.

According to the above List, some of the names do not correspond with the names sent from Moulmain, and on these eight men being questioned, seven of them state that they are inhabitants of Rangoon City and belonged to the late *Meay-dai-Mein*, the other that he is an inhabitant of Shway Gyene City and had gone to Moulmain to trade. These eight men are not Taliens, but Burmese, of which we have every conviction, and notwithstanding, as Anthony De La Combe Maingy has sent a letter to demand them containing expressions of friendship and good will, they have been allowed to return to their country. Should they however on their arrival at Moulmain not remain under the English Chief, but be allowed to go to the Burmese, it will be as if Anthony De La Combe Maingy aided and countenanced the Burmese. The

Burmese and Siamese are enemies and at war with each other.

As to the twenty eight men together with one Gna Pein, a Talien, and two hundred and twenty five inhabitants of Myne-Raw-Ra-ret, who were taken to La-Boung and for whom a demand has been repeatedly made within the last three months, they were apprehended by *Byen-Ya-Rhine*, and *Byen-Ya-Phat*, Chiefs of the frontier towards the Burmese boundary. At the conclusion of the war between the English and the Burmese, the Burmese had to cede to the English Moulmain, Ye, Mergui, Tavoy and Tenasserim. Between the English and the Siamese there has always existed a treaty of friendship and consequently orders have been sent to *Zemmai*, *La-Gaun*, and *La-Boung*, and to the different Chiefs to apprehend Burmese Subjects only, and not to seize any persons belonging to the English Chief.

The twenty men under Gna Pein, and the two hundred and twenty five inhabitants of *Myne-Rau-Raret* apprehended and taken to La-Boung city and said to belong to the English Chief, were inveigled by *Dau-Ran-Win*, the late Chief at *Wen Mien*, an inhabitant of Zemmai, who was Chief over the Karyans of the District of Zemmai. It was during the war between the English and Burmese that the above mentioned two hundred and twenty five men, after being inveigled by *Daw-Ran-Win*, were settled at La-Boung. It was during the time of one Moung Pai (a Bo) that Gna Pein, and his family also settled at La-Boung. Addresses have been sent by the Chiefs of La-Goun, La-Boung and Zemmai stating that the two parties namely the two hundred and twenty five men, with Gna Pein, and twenty eight others, are not men belonging to the English Chief.

The Names mentioned in the List sent by the English Chief do not correspond with the names sent

by the Chiefs of La-Boun, La-Goun, and Zemmai. The Ministers therefore are not satisfied that the men claimed by the English Chief actually belong to him

La-Boun, Zemmai and La-Goun, being distant from the Golden City, it is difficult to learn all that takes place in those Cities. Some of our Head Men are now sent to Moulmain in search of Gna Pein, an inhabitant of Myne-Rau-Ra-ret, and should he be met with and that it be proved that the men claimed by the English Chief are his subjects and that they are willing to return to him, they shall be released and made over to him.

His Majesty the King of Siam has no desire to detain any persons belonging to the English Chief.

The Man Pa-la-goo-roo whom Antony De La Combe Maingy appointed and sent to the Golden City has been detained in consequence of the roads not being passable during the rains, but now that the rains are over the eight Burmese are delivered to Pa-la-goo-roo and Byen-Ya-The-De-Thu-han, Byen-Ya-Thu-ha-Rajah-Tha-Mien-Dthan-Byet, and Byen-Ya-Thoo-re-ya-chat accompany them on their return to Maulmain—of this we now send information.

Dispatched in the year 1192, on Monday the Fifth of the Waning of the Moon *Nà-Dau*.

The letter from the Siamese Ministers is written in the Burman Language.

A true Translation

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

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